Promotion of Economic Prospects for Refugees and Host Community in Turkey

(PEP)
Approach

Based on the successes and experiences of the previous “Cash-for-Work” projects, implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Turkey, PEP will focus on creating employment opportunities through skills development and qualification, the support of small enterprises and entrepreneurship as well as strengthening the Turkish private sector.
Since the breakout of the war in Syria and the influx of Syrians into Turkey, the Turkish Government undertook great efforts to relieve the dire humanitarian situation of Syrians fleeing their homes. Its German, European and International partners supported the government. With the war entering its eighth year in Syria, the situation for refugees in Turkey is becoming protracted, which is why longer-term, sustainable approaches are needed to support Syrians and their Turkish host community to create prospects for self-reliance.

In the framework of the PEP project, the access of Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens in the host community to employment will be supported by providing opportunities in close cooperation with the private sector and their respective municipalities. The measures will take into account previously obtained knowledge and skills and further strengthen them, based on the needs of the local Turkish labor market. Further training and qualification measures will enable the target group to find decent employment in the formal labor market. Small companies and future entrepreneurs will be supported through trainings, networking opportunities and the facilitation of a better understanding of the market environment, which includes Turkish legislation as well as information on access to finance and other support.
For Syrians, all measures include Turkish language training - as speaking a country’s native language is the single most important skill one must have to build a future there. To foster women’s participation in the labor market, child care will be provided. Whenever possible, the measures will also seek to foster the social cohesion between Syrians and Turkish citizens, through common events and activities.

However, the most successful tool to improve social security as well as societal participation is decent employment. A job not only provides the necessary financial means to actively participate in society, it also provides people with dignity and renewed self-esteem. It is in the workplace that Syrians and Turkish people interact, cooperate and communicate in order to get a job done. Thus, access to decent employment is the most effective measure to strengthen social cohesion and foster peaceful interaction between Turkish citizens and their Syrian neighbors.

PEP measures will directly contribute to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN) such as: SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequality.
Short Summary of the Previous CfW Projects

From April 2016 until March 2019 GIZ implemented on behalf of the BMZ two “Cash-for-Work” (CfW) projects, in 14 different provinces of Turkey. The focus of those two projects have been on “Handicrafts and Training” and “Waste Disposal and Improvement of Municipal Infrastructure”. Targeted were vulnerable members among the Syrian refugees in Turkey and vulnerable Turkish citizens in the host regions. 28 different projects have been implemented with a variety of partners, including MoNE (DG-LLL), İŞKUR, Gaziantep Chamber of Industry and different local and international NGOs. Thanks to the successful cooperation of GIZ with its Turkish partners around 25.000 vulnerable individuals and their families benefitted from the CfW activities.