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Community-Based Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 2)

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

General context

Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world (around 3,7 million Syrians under temporary protection, 330,000 international protection holders from other nationalities). The situation poses significant challenges to the government in ensuring refugees' access to quality social services as well as guaranteeing their livelihood and protection. Despite the enormous efforts and successes of the government of Turkey in providing social services to all those in need, poverty, precarious living situations, and psychological stress persist. Access to social support services is particularly limited for vulnerable groups. The situation has deteriorated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the language barrier is a significant obstacle to social integration and the labour market access. Rising living costs and unemployment also have negative consequences on vulnerable Turkish citizens (i.e., women-led households, persons with disabilities) and restrict social cohesion. Negative coping mechanisms (i.e., domestic or sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child labour, and early marriage) may partly be considered as consequences of psychological stress induced by insecure living situations. Civil Society

Organisations (CSOs) that are actively involved in the social and economic integration of refugees for years have the potential to fill those gaps in service delivery. However, particularly in underserved areas, they lack the capacity and expertise to provide needs-based and integrated social services in coordination with relevant state institutions.

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 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 - August 2023
Total budget	EUR 6,500,000 by BMZ and EUR 4,000,000 by ECHO





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Our Approach

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) has been supporting the work of NGOs in the refugee response in Turkey since 2015. CLIP 2 is a multi-donor financed project that supports community-based local initiatives in underserved regions of Turkey to provide integrated and needs-differentiated services to disadvantaged refugees and vulnerable residents of the Turkish host community. The project builds upon the experiences of the Community Centres and Local Initiatives Project (CLIP 1). It is co-financed by the Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).



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The CLIP 2 project works in four action fields:

1. Improving protection and specialised support services

GIZ supports local initiatives in improving support services, i.e. legal and social counselling, mental health and psycho-social support (PSS), specialised services for those with specific needs, in particular persons with disabilities and survivors of SGBV. The services are provided for refugees and vulnerable residents of the host community, including single-headed households, unaccompanied minors, LGBTIQ+ persons, seasonal migrants, and child labourers. The target group is empowered to cope with challenges in their living environment, which strengthens their personal resilience.

2. Access to non-formal education

The CLIP 2 implementing partners are strengthened in terms of providing non-formal education such as language courses or courses to improve the target groups' life and work skills. Given the importance of Turkish language skills for access to the labour market and interaction with the local population, and against the backdrop of the precarious economic situation, this provision serves as a basis for improving the personal, economic and social prospects of refugees and members of the host communities. .

3. Intercultural understanding and social cohesion

The project supports activities that promote intercultural exchange and social cohesion at the local level such as dialogue events, and cultural and social activities. Through such regular exchange, social tensions can be decreased and mutual understanding between refugees and the host community can be improved.



4. Capacity development and cooperation

The project implements measures at the individual and organisational levels to strengthen technical, management and institutional skills and capacities of local initiatives in Turkey's underserved regions. Moreover, CLIP 2 seeks to reinforce cooperation and coordination mechanisms among NGOs as well as with state partners at all levels. This helps to provide high-quality, integrated, and complementary social services. A peer support network (ADA Türkiye) is established to ensure institutional sustainability.



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Peer Support Network for Sustainability and Localisation

CLIP 2 Peer Support Network (ADA Türkiye) facilitates successful cooperation between experienced NGOs and local initiatives in underserved areas of Turkey to reach out to the most vulnerable refugees and host communities. It fosters the provision of needs-based and high-quality services linked to existing service structures of the state.

The project employs a mentoring perspective with a particular focus on knowledge and experience sharing among project partners on various levels. Large-scale, well-established NGOs that GIZ has worked with within the framework of CLIP 1 receive specialised capacity development support from GIZ to become equipped in supporting and empowering small-scale NGOs in underserved regions. Together with the smaller NGOs, they form a "bundle".

Within the bundle, the capacities of smaller scale organisations are increased in the fields of management, finance, and organisational development as well within thematic areas depending on the organisation's expertise. On the other hand, CLIP 2 also trains and strengthens larger NGOs in their supportive (mentoring) role for a larger impact. Thus, the network creates an enabling environment for mutual learning and exchange. Local authorities are also involved from the start of the projects in each bundle.

ADA Türkiye aims at providing opportunities for civil society organisations of different sizes and capacities to optimise the services they provide and increase their chances to absorb future funding as an entire network.

ADA Türkiye, as an innovative approach, connects implementing partners with varying capacities to each other and promotes peer support, cooperation, and collaboration. This also empowers civil society actors and serves the institutional sustainability of the organisations overall.

Intervention area

CLIP 2 implementing partners were selected from provinces with a low level of international donor support, a high proportion of particularly vulnerable refugees (including those from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran) and host community residents, and limited social service infrastructure. As a result, CLIP 2 implementing partners operate in the following cities: Adana, Afyon, Ağrı, Aksaray, Amasya, Ankara, Bursa, Elazığ, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Iğdır, İstanbul, Kayseri, Kilis, Kırşehir, Konya, Kütahya, Nevşehir, Niğde, Sakarya, Sivas, Trabzon, Van and Zonguldak.



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ADA TÜRKİYE

CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK
FOR PEER SUPPORT AND LOCALISATION





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The Benefits

CLIP 2 promotes the provision of multi-sectoral services to strengthen the personal and socio-economic resilience of refugees and vulnerable members of the host community. Resilience refers to the ability and capacity of individuals or communities to develop/use their emotional strength to cope with and recover from shocks and stresses resulting from the impact of forced displacement (e.g. trauma from the past, challenges related to a new environment) as well as current challenges in Turkey (e.g. economic deterioration, Covid-19) and in this process, deal constructively with requirements of the new living environment (e.g. political, social and cultural rules/norms, educational and employment requirements, demographic changes due to the reception of refugees) without losing their identity and transform their local environment by reforming the existing structures in such a way that stress, change and uncertainty can be managed and integration, participation and cohesion can be ensured in the longer term.

As part of the supported activities, CLIP 2 gives explicit consideration to the provision and facilitation of access to social and protection services. These include advisory and information services, awareness-raising, advocacy and empowerment activities, psychosocial support, and counselling.

In addition, education and skills development activities are supported. Both refugees and Turkish beneficiaries develop skills required to lead a healthy life, successfully organise their everyday life, secure their livelihoods and gain access to the labour market. Combined with measures in protection and social support, this strengthens the self-help capacities of the target groups and paves the way to better social and economic participation.

Social cohesion is a cross-cutting issue. To promote positive relations, the project implements activities at three relationship levels: 1) connecting refugees and vulnerable members of the host communities to state institutions by promoting equal access to social services, 2) providing a safe space for interaction and exchange between refugees and host community members, 3) strengthening the relationship within specific target groups in comparable living situations (e.g. persons with disabilities, women, youth). The social cohesion measures aim to create a safe and supportive environment where the rights and dignity of individuals and groups are respected. This ultimately facilitates participation and positive interactions with others and improves the target groups' self-help capacities and self-esteem as well as their feeling of connectedness to their living environment and access to needs-based social services.

CLIP 2 combines humanitarian approaches with strategies to improve socio-economic prospects and intercultural learning. The project's holistic approach makes it possible to respond to emerging needs, build structures and contribute to social cohesion, making the project an example for the **Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus**.

Moreover, strengthening cooperation structures between state and non-state actors serves the sustainable integration of the provided services into the Turkish social system. This also secures fulfilment of the target groups' needs in the long term.





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Highlights

By August 2023, the project aims at reaching:



A total of **38,000** individuals benefitted from social support services provided by CLIP 2 partner organisations



31,000 persons benefitted from protection services



1,600 participants benefitted from measures to prevent or respond to sexualised and gender-based violence



10,000 persons benefitted from intercultural exchange and social cohesion measures



280 employees of partner organisations who participated in capacity development measures provided by CLIP 2



2,300 individuals benefitted from non-formal education services (language courses, life skills and employment-related courses)

As of June 2022, the project achieved:



Around **2,500** individuals enrolled in the non-formal education courses



Over **2,800** people took part in information and awareness raising measures to prevent or respond to sexualised and gender-based violence



Over **29,000** people have benefitted from legal and social advice (including referral to other services) and psychosocial support (PSS) services

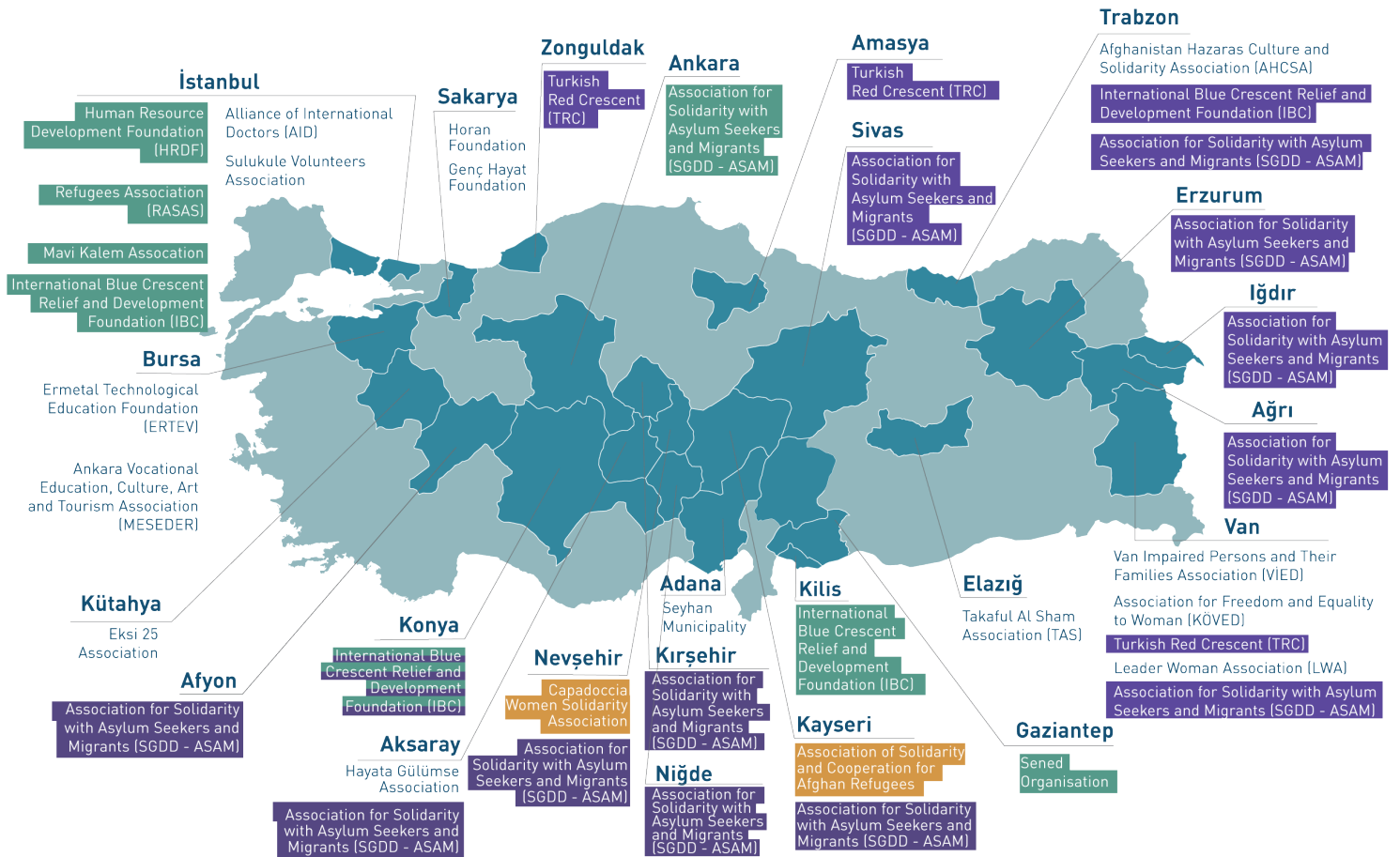


Over **15,000** individuals took part in intercultural activities



Over **1,500** measures to promote social cohesion between refugees and residents of host communities were implemented

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



- Exploration Fund
- Mentor
- Local Initiative
- Funded by BMZ-only





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“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 Turkey with her family after being threatened with death.

Saher was unable to continue her education in Turkey 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 Turkey, 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 Turkey, 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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