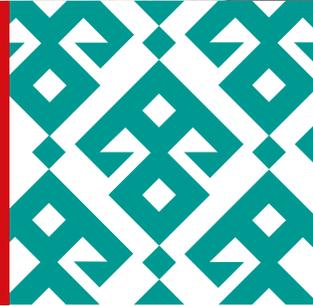
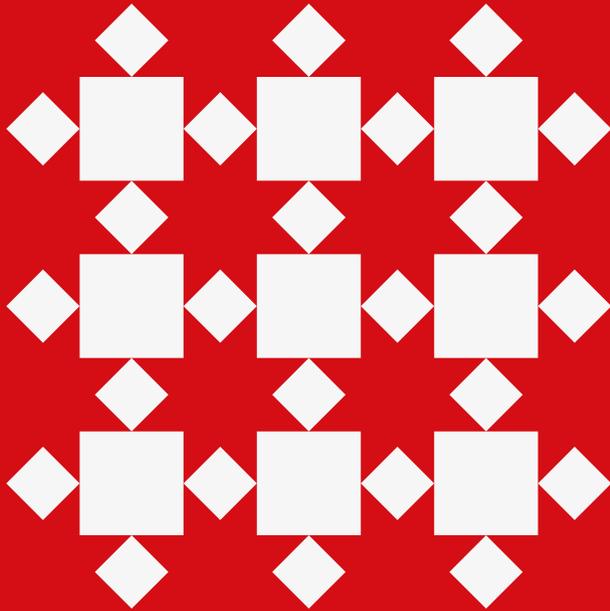




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# *GIZ Turkey's Response to COVID-19*



# COVID-19 in the context of humanitarian aid and development

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On 30th January 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern posing a high risk to countries with vulnerable health systems. The emergency committee have stated that the spread of COVID-19 may be interrupted by early detection, isolation, prompt treatment and the implementation of a robust system to trace contacts.

The coronavirus pandemic endangers everyone on the planet – especially refugees and other people displaced by conflict or persecution. The short and medium-term impacts of the outbreak will compound the existing socio-economic divide, proving to be particularly severe for the most disadvantaged. Among Syria’s neighbouring countries, Turkey currently hosts almost 4 million registered refugees (of which nearly 3,6 million are Syrians).

Refugees, displaced persons, unemployed individuals and day labourers living under poor conditions with limited access to various services are among the most vulnerable members of society. Therefore, their specific

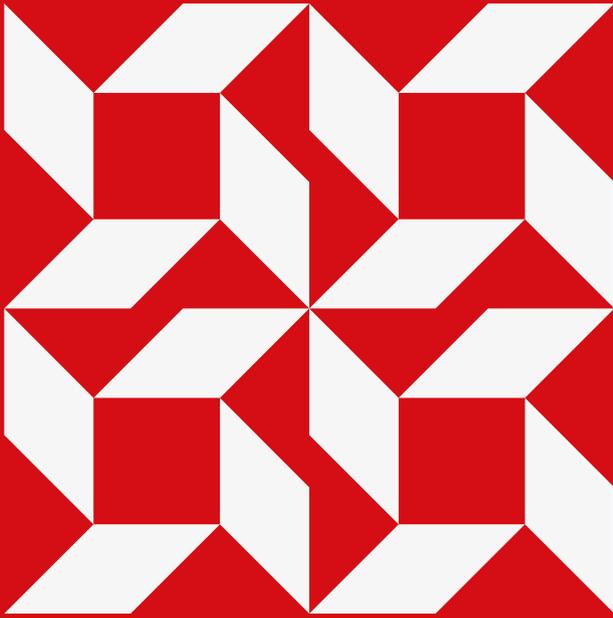
challenges must be taken into consideration in COVID-19 readiness and response operations. In addition to economic impacts, the epidemic is increasing the anxiety and worry among refugees and displaced people, affecting their social relations, trust in the host community and its institutions, their personal security and sense of belonging.

While the Turkish government acts swiftly and decisively to contain the spread of the virus, the international community, together with relevant public institutions, governmental bodies and implementing agencies, complement these efforts. They support the commitment of the Turkish government by assessing the impacts of the pandemic, by offering countermeasures and integrating these into their response activities.

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*Keeping the most vulnerable safe means  
keeping everyone safe and leaving no  
one behind.*





**GIZ** *response*

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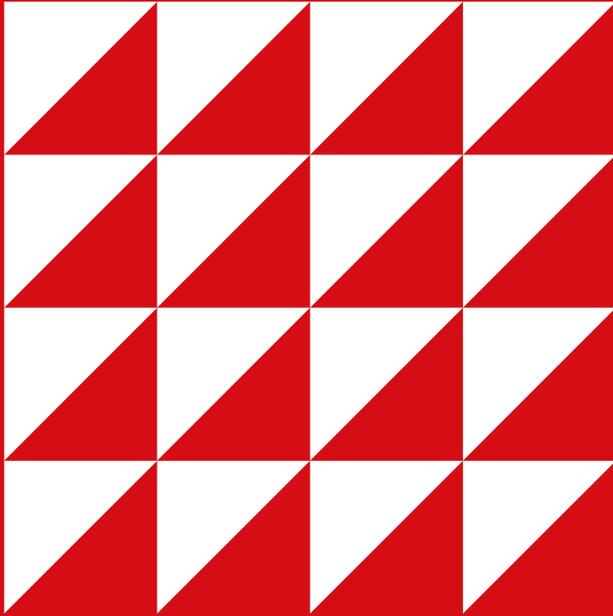
For several years, GIZ has been cooperating with selected countries in the area of pandemic preparedness and is involved in the fields of health systems and health care.

To respond to the pandemic in a global context, GIZ headquarters has established a crisis prevention team with the participation of the Corporate Security Unit, the Medical Service, the Rapid Health Expert Task Force, COPE (GIZ's own psychosocial counselling unit) and representatives of the Commercial Crisis Advisory Service and Corporate Communications. The Crisis Prevention Team is in close contact with the German government and the renowned Robert Koch Institute.



*Only if we all pull together can we halt the spread of the coronavirus – at home in our own country and throughout the world.*

**Dr. Gerd Müller**  
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development



## *GIZ response in Turkey*

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As a first step taken, GIZ announced new flexible working measures in line with those taken by Turkey to ensure continuous work with its partners. Thanks to these new measures, GIZ employees stay at home and work online, thus protecting their own health and helping avoid pressure on the health system in Turkey.

GIZ in Turkey, through its Support to Refugees and Host Communities (SRHC) Cluster of six projects, expanded its current activities to include health related and other necessary measures to fight the coronavirus pandemic for example, by promoting local procurement and production of personal protective equipment such as face masks, face shields, gloves, body suits, etc.

To slow the spread of misinformation, GIZ is collaborating with relevant partners to design and implement information campaigns from trusted sources by publishing an online weekly bulletin.

The commitment to substantial partnerships, supporting state actors, engagement with local governance and civil society, strong focus on the livelihoods sector, investing in

youth work and the new pilot intervention in early childhood education are still at the core of the GIZ SRHC Cluster roadmap in Turkey. The funding for GIZ in Turkey comes from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

This brochure gives you an overview of some of the immediate measures taken by GIZ in Turkey to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak hand-in-hand with a wide range of state and non-state partners to ensure help gets where it is most needed in the communities.

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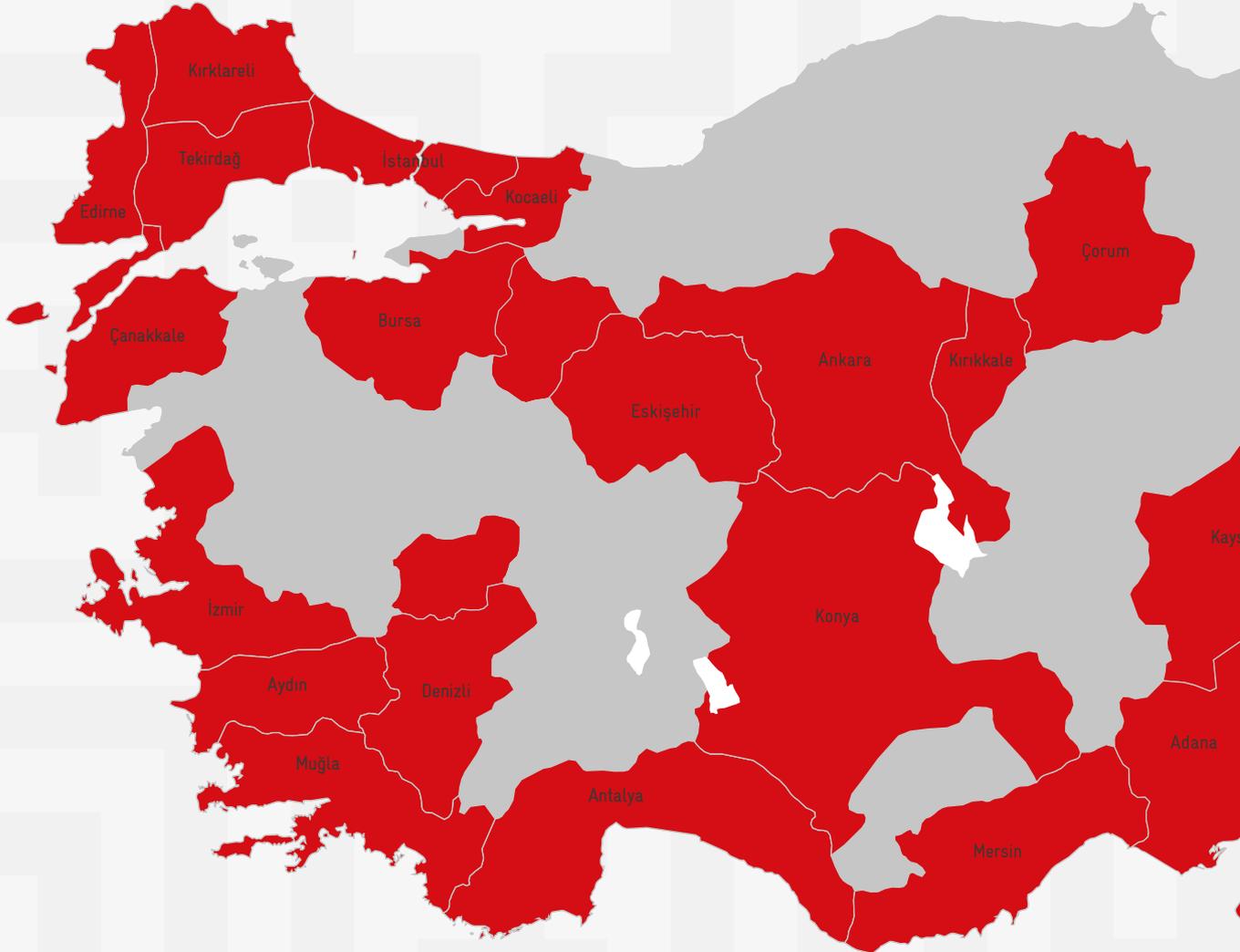
*Let us take COVID-19 as an opportunity to rethink our way of life and make long term changes that are good for humankind and the environment.*

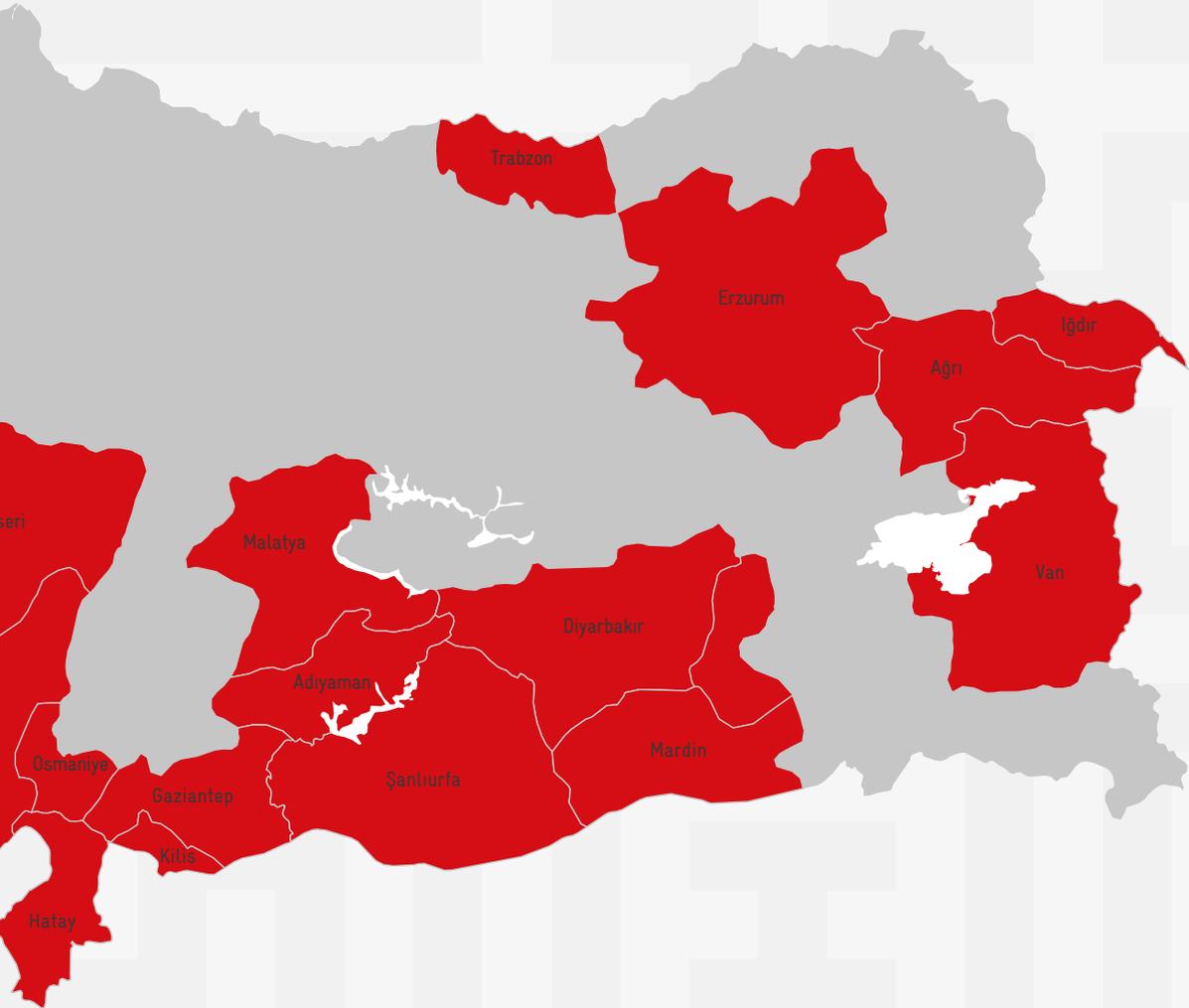
**Rubeena Esmail**  
GIZ Country Director Turkey



# *Focus Areas and Target Provinces*

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Promotion of  
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Ekonomik Fırsatların  
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The project is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey  
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GAZİANTEP BÖLGESEL VE ENDÜSTRİYEL TASARIM VE HİBRİT MODELLEME MERKEZİ  
GAZİANTEP REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND HYBRID MODELLING CENTRE



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Provided with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ)



# Method and Approach



## Needs Assessment

The GIZ SRHC Cluster applies a combination of needs and rights-based approaches through community-based interventions, adopting a one-refugee-approach without differentiating between Syrians and other refugees. It looks at the needs of the most vulnerable in the host communities. As the COVID-19 outbreak spreads, the projects continue to assist their partner institutions and organisations online identify their needs as well as those of their beneficiaries.





## Response to the Economic Impact

The GIZ SRHC Cluster implements a development-oriented livelihoods programme aiming at improving economic prospects for refugees and the host community. This programme offers comprehensive intervention packages, tailored to the specific skills and competencies of the target group, focussing not only on vulnerability but employability.

The GIZ SRHC Cluster has taken the initial steps to mitigate the severe economic impact of the crisis. The Cluster, in cooperation with the private sector, continues the payment of salaries and Social Security contributions for Turkish and Syrians employees in their partner organisations.

### *Rapid interventions introduced with the implementing partners include:*

- Continue with “Short-Term Employment Allowance” payments for 200 private sector employees who lost their job and not entitled to government support.
- Extending contracts with partner organisations securing the minimum wage of 350 private sector employees.
- Supporting Municipal soup kitchens and its employees in Adana, Kilis and Istanbul.
- Implement no cuts on the stipend payments of 2,000 participants whose skill-building training has been suspended.
- Provide 400 company owners who are yet in the process of registering their business with financial support.





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GLZ in *Turkey*



## Supporting the Health System

The GIZ SRHC Cluster complements the efforts of the Turkish government in slowing the spread of the virus and has taken various measures to this end. In cooperation with implementing agencies, governmental institutions as well as municipalities, GIZ is committed to quick healthcare services for refugees and host communities.

*For example, only in a couple of weeks the GIZ has initiated*

- The procurement of 200,000 face shields to be donated to the health sector including the development of three different mould prototypes for mass production
- The initiation of new cooperation between a women's cooperative and an NGO to produce non-medical face masks
- The provision of entrepreneurship support (including mentoring, business plan development, etc.) to three start-ups developing innovative medical solutions
- Supporting implementing partners on distributing hygiene kits to both refugees and the vulnerable of the host community
- The procurement of 3 medical mask production machines for three selected Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Schools in Ankara, Istanbul and Gaziantep.





## Response to Specific Protection Needs

Many refugees especially in under-served areas are still not benefitting from the available support. The GIZ SRHC Cluster already acknowledges that psychosocial distress is a main problem that needs to be addressed. To maintain this support, the Cluster technically assists the partner community centres and local initiatives in their efforts for online psychosocial support, individual counselling and referral activities.

Furthermore, to prevent the protection risks and respond rapidly to the urgent needs, GIZ provides technical and financial support to its partner organisations in distributing food and non-food items as well as establishing Emergency Cash Assistance.





## Awareness Raising and Information Support

The WHO has labelled the spread of fake news on the outbreak an "infodemic". To surmount this challenge, GIZ brings together diverse but reliable information resources in its weekly Info-Sharing bulletins and sets up procedures for sharing trustable information.

On the other hand, the GIZ SRHC Cluster ensures continuous support for its partner organisations that now carry out their information and awareness raising activities in online platforms.

To ensure that the public health information is clear and easy to understand, the Cluster also provides comprehensive and coordinated guidelines based on the materials produced by the implementing partners for refugees and asylum-seekers in many languages including Turkish, Arabic and Persian.





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# Quotations

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*"The COVID-19 pandemic has an effect not only in our country but all over the world. As the Directorate General of Migration Management, we would like to offer thanks to GIZ Turkey Office for your important support on carrying out services and providing hygiene materials to protect the health of foreigners benefitting from our services."*

*Directorate General of  
Migration Management*

*Kilis Municipality*

*"Unity, togetherness and solidarity become more meaningful in these times. In order to restore the world's health as soon as possible, Syrian and Turkish women produce masks in our municipal Women Vocational Training Centres in a fully hygienic environment in Kilis."*

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*Words of appreciation from a beneficiary about the informative SMS on Corona outbreak.*

*“Thank you so much for ensuring us to take part in such a project like this and thank you for being so sensitive towards us. I would like to thank the project and you for providing such an opportunity and being so attentive.”*

*“My expectations for the future have flourished. For all I know, there are positive changes in my life, and accordingly in our family thanks to support of the project”*

*Trainee of Designing Women's Apparels Course - Denizli*

# Story of Ayşe

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## *Face masks are the new “couture”*

*25-year-old Ayşe, mother of three, has been working to build a beautiful future for her family and herself. She has been versatile since very early age when she has started to box as her favourite sport and kept her desire to be a “haute couture” fashion designer since then. With the incentives received in scope of the PEP-Promotion of Economic Prospects Programme, she purchased a sewing machine and participated to the “Sewing Women’s Tops” vocational training at Istanbul Esenyurt Public Education Centre to pursue her dream.*

*However, just within weeks everything has changed not in her life but in everyone’s life due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Not being able to have a social life didn’t stop Ayşe to show her solidarity. She set an example with her voluntary action and began to produce hand-made face masks at home. By her sense of responsibility, Ayşe shared her first masks with her vocational training course mates and their family members.*

*Ayşe is only one of those giving a hand to their communities. When there is a need to change, solidarity makes things better.*





# SRHC

## GIZ Support to Refugees and Host Communities (SRHC) Cluster in Turkey

Providing support and technical cooperation in the areas of education, employment, capacity development and social cohesion - together we create a common picture.

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### Address

Aziziye Mahallesi, Pak Sok. 1/101  
06680 Çankaya Ankara  
+90 312 466 70 80, Ext. 200  
giz-tuerkei@giz.de  
www.giz.de/turkey

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### On behalf of

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

Ankara, May 2020

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