

TURKEY



Programme Portfolio

- TPr1** Strengthening social cohesion in host communities
- TPr2** Effective urban waste and sewage management
- TPr3** Establishment and operationalization of a vocational training and skills development centre for Syrians under temporary protection in Şanlıurfa
- TPr4** Establishment and operationalization of grape processing, agro-food facilities in Kilis and Gaziantep



UNDP Response in Turkey

At the end of 2014, the number of Syrian refugees in Turkey was approximately 1.6 million. Only 14 percent of refugees are hosted in the 22 refugee camps managed by the Turkish Government, with the remaining 86 percent of refugees – approximately 1,376,000 people – living in urban and rural areas, particularly in the south-eastern part of the country. In 2015 and 2016, the number of non-camp Syrian refugees is expected to continue to rise, which will further challenge social cohesion and stability.

The influx of Syrian refugees and the overall impact of the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq are placing a considerable burden on Turkey's local systems and social structures. This is exacerbating existing vulnerabilities among host communities despite the government's generous assistance for refugees. In particular, as Syrians are granted access to basic public services, the pressure on water and electricity supplies, education, health care systems, sanitation and solid waste management has drastically increased. Municipalities are finding it difficult to meet the increased need for municipal services (e.g., waste management, sewage collection, fire-fighting, funeral services, electricity, etc.) that are critical for sustaining the quality of life.

At the same time, widely reported crowding in local labour markets, due to the inflow of refugees has vastly increased competition within local labour supplies, especially for the poorest and in the border areas. The conflict has created informal cross-border trade, resulting in distorted local market conditions and additional pressure on local tradesmen and craftsmen. Such stresses on the labour market, limited local resources and basic services heighten the tensions between the two communities, as evidenced by an increasing number of incidents and eroded social cohesion.

Responding with a positive vision for the future, the Turkey Chapter of 3RP was launched on March 19th in Ankara jointly by the United Nations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in addition to different parts of the Government. The donor community attended the event at Ambassador level. The Turkey Chapter of the 3RP for 2015-2016 foresees a total budget of USD624 million, with an increase from the USD497 million appeal in the Regional Response Plan, 6th generation (RRP6). The 3RP appeals USD460 million for the Refugee component and USD164 million for the Resilience component. It will help Turkey continue to thrive as an economic leader in the region.

Building on its longstanding experience in area-based and local economic development, UNDP offers longer-term, development-related solutions to the refugee crisis that can be integrated into the local economy. This is evident in UNDP's adoption of a sector-based approach that focuses, for example, on competitiveness and local economic activity, capacity development for local actors, and sustainable development and growth. Working alongside development partners, UNDP has a local presence that enables it to respond quickly and concretely, while UNDP's knowledge of the local economy, dynamics, competitive advantages and partners clearly identify UNDP as the central actor in resilience-based development.

This project will improve the delivery of municipal public services in host communities with high numbers of Syrians in order to strengthen social cohesion. It will do so by creating quick, small-scale investments in social spaces and municipal service facilities. More specifically, the project will build social recreation areas and an animal shelter in the Şanlıurfa municipality.

Key components of the project are to:

- Respond to the urgent need of social zones for host communities and non-camp Syrian population
- Reduce public health risks by improving animal shelter facilities and services
- Ensure municipalities in the Şanlıurfa province have sustainable infrastructure and practices to deliver the above services

Budget 3,000,000 USD

Local service providers are overstretched with the increased number of inhabitants living within Şanlıurfa province, bordering Syria. According to the data obtained from the report “Effects of the Syrian Refugees on Turkey (ORSAM, Jan 2015)¹⁹,” there are 230,000 registered Syrian individuals living in Şanlıurfa province.

The impact of the Syrian influx is felt primarily in the south and south-eastern provinces and districts of Turkey, particularly Şanlıurfa which hosts large numbers of Syrians. Continuous pressure on municipalities to deliver services has worsened by their limited technical capacities and their lack of funding to ensure service delivery and to maintain property and equipment.

Municipal budgets from the central government are allocated mainly on the basis of registered population and land size, which corresponds to the citizens of the Turkish Republic. This means that the additional influx of the Syrian population does not lead to increased budgets for municipalities to respond to the increased service demand. Additional resources are necessary.

The influx of Syrians as well as the overall impact of the conflict in Syria is placing a considerable burden on the local systems in many aspects of municipal services such as maintenance of recreational areas and public health services. Pressure on basic public services is growing dangerously. As Syrians are granted access to public services, the pressure on water and electricity supply, education, health, sanitation and solid waste management has drastically increased where Syrians have settled. Municipalities are finding it difficult to address increased needs.

Secondly, refugees heavily use the existing public spaces (parks and recreational areas), particularly during summer period. As a result, lack of recreational areas adds to the existing tension among the host communities.

Thirdly, municipalities are experiencing problems with stray animals. The municipalities are finding it difficult to keep stray animals under control in the cities after the heavy Syrian influx. The problem is increasingly threatening public health, particularly through the spread of diseases, which are being spread by street animals. For example, Şanlıurfa Municipality has an animal shelter established in 2004

19. <http://www.orsam.org.tr/en/showReport.aspx?ID=2754>

The Project

The Issue

with a capacity of 250 dogs and 30 cats, which is insufficient to meet the need. Şanlıurfa Municipality's area of responsibility was expanded to districts due to the recent change of municipal services, by a new regulation passed in 2014. As a result of the influx of Syrian refugees, the shelter services are at capacity like many other Municipal services. Şanlıurfa Municipality has plans to build a new facility with an animal capacity of 2,000 and an available land of 100,000 square metres for a new stray animal facility.

The goal of this project is to strengthen social cohesion at the local level, in provinces with a high influx of Syrians. The strategy is to make quick, small-scale investments to strengthen the municipal capacities of public health services and to create public spaces. Interventions will urgently set up needed recreational areas such as multifunctional parks and urban parks. There is also a need for improved municipal public health related facilities including an animal shelter. Based on an assessment and site visits, these municipal service enhancements will be implemented to improve the experience of two communities living together.

Strategy

From previous work in Sanliurfa and Gaziantep provinces (in economic development), UNDP has built strong relationships with local government partners including the Municipality of Şanlıurfa. The Municipality of Şanlıurfa will implement the first project and UNDP will provide technical support for implementation. Other municipalities are expected to carry out similar projects to improve delivery of public services.

Partnership Framework

This project will take quick actions that address critical social cohesion and infrastructure problems. The project will:

- Respond to the urgent need for social zones for host communities and the non-camp Syrian population
- Support the development of an improved urban park, which includes social living zones and a community center for host communities
- Establish new animal barns and an animal rehabilitation center, hence addressing a public health risk
- Support the Şanlıurfa Municipality to deliver essential municipal services by constructing an animal shelter together with animal rehabilitation center
- Strengthen infrastructure and service delivery capacity of the municipality by building skills in planning, coordination and project implementation

Activities

This project will improve municipal service delivery capacity in the Şanlıurfa province. It will strengthen skills and resources in planning, coordination and implementation of different stages of urban park concepts and animal shelters. Ultimately, the project will reduce social tensions and increase social cohesion.

Impact

This project will improve the delivery of municipal services for host communities and Syrian refugees in and out of camps. It will do this by increasing the municipalities' capacities for solid waste and sewage management in camp and non-camp settings by purchasing new equipment, building infrastructure in selected municipalities/camps and providing technical assistance.

The main components of the project are to:

- Reduce pressure on local systems by creating local waste management solutions, primarily in camp settings
- Rehabilitate landfill sites, provide sewage management vehicles, and address waste management issues in non-camp settings
- Set up new and innovative models for waste management

Ultimately, the project will improve health conditions and living standards for host communities and Syrians in the border region, leading to decreased tension.

Budget 25,000,000 USD

The impact of the Syrian influx is felt primarily in the south and south-eastern provinces and districts of Turkey, particularly in Kilis, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa. It is also spreading to other provinces such as Batman, Mardin and Kahramanmaraş. This is increasing commodity prices and demand for public services (health, education, municipal and social services). Municipalities have insufficient technical capacities and lack the equipment and machinery necessary to ensure the delivery of services and maintain their existing property and equipment.

Solid waste and sewage sourcing from camp and non-camp population is reducing the life of current facilities and exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. As Syrians are granted access to basic public services, the pressure on water and electricity supply, education, health, sanitation and solid waste management, has drastically increased where Syrians have settled.

Camps are producing massive amounts of waste and sewage that local unit of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD - Afet ve Acil Durum Yönetimi Başkanlığı), responsible for the camp management, are not able to cope with. Many of the camps have inadequate sewage systems so sewage is discharged to nearby streams or existing sewage lines where capacity has not been designed for the additional sewage.

An example of solid waste management can easily be observed in Kilis province. In 2013, Kilis municipality completed a sanitary landfill site. The original facility had been designed in 2008 to serve 196,575 people and was deemed sufficient until 2025. The landfill project was designed based on predicted population increases, land availability and amount of solid waste accumulation. The Syrian influx has led the landfill to be near capacity in a much shorter timeframe.

As of 2014, Kilis province has a native population of 128,781 (excluding Syrians) with an average population increase of 1.2% percent per annum between 2007 and 2014. The landfill design was made based on a 2% annual population increase of population. However, population has increased by 78% in the small border province, now home to 100,000 refugees in urban and camp settings. The continued influx of Syrians is placing a considerable burden on local systems such as solid waste collecting and sewage management.

The Project

The Issue

Funding to improve waste management (landfill, facilities and equipment) is not available through the Turkish municipal budget system, which allocates monies on the basis of registered Turkish citizens and land size. The influx Syrians is not factored in to increase budgets of municipalities to allow them to respond to the increased service demand. Other sources of funding are needed.

The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the resilience and absorption capacity of Turkish communities in the Southern border areas in provinces including Kilis, Sanliurfa and Gaziantep because they have the largest number Syrians, relative to their population.

UNDP has three key strategies for interventions:

- Reduce pressure on local systems by decreasing waste that needs to be managed by the municipalities. Create local waste management solutions, primarily in camp settings
- Strengthen the capacity of local authorities and municipalities by providing infrastructure and technical assistance. Rehabilitate landfill sites, provide urban waste and sewage management vehicles, address other critical, related municipal service needs, primarily in non-camp settings
- Set up new and innovative models for waste management and municipal service provisions in the context of crisis

Strategy

The main local partners for this activity are the municipalities as they are responsible for provision of waste management services and AFAD. These are the responsible parties for management of camps and for in-camp interventions. It is proposed that the pilot implementations for Municipal capacity building and in camp interventions will be launched in three provinces including Kilis, Şanlıurfa and Gaziantep.

The Project will implement its activities primarily through existing/relevant local Government structures, including Municipalities. AFAD will provide the overall coordination across the relevant components of the project. UNDP will provide technical support for implementation and assist by recruiting staff for overall planning, implementation and project monitoring.

Partnership Framework

In working with partners so far on the project, UNDP has found the need for stronger infrastructure and service delivery capacity for local authorities. The consultations held at the central level with AFAD management, and at the local level with local AFAD focal points, municipality representatives have highlighted the need for more sustainable practices for waste and sewage management to address the additional waste and extra sewage generated from Syrians.

The activities of this programme are modeled after the project, "Mitigating the Impact of the Syrian Crisis on Host Communities in Southeast Anatolia Region," which was implemented jointly with AFAD and the Regional Development Administration (GAP RDA - Güneydoğu Anadolu Projesi Regional Development Administration) in 2014. The project aimed at increased municipal service and emergency response capacity targeting both host communities and Syrians as well as increased employment opportunities in Southeast Anatolia.

Activities

Based on a needs assessment and considering the model project from the Southeast Anatolia Region of Turkey, this project will address the capacity deficiencies in urban and camp waste management and sewage interventions. Key activities include:

- In-camp Interventions to:
 - Strengthen the capacity of camp-based sewage and solid waste management systems
 - Improve the capacity of local AFAD units on in camp solid waste and sewage management by establishing solid waste and sewage management facilities
- Non-camp Interventions to:
 - Strengthen waste management capacity by responding to local infrastructure needs (including landfill sites) and sewage and waste vehicles
 - Conduct further needs assessment to plan detailed implementation
 - Improve service delivery in solid waste management through planning, equipment and technology

Impact

The proposed interventions positively impact both Syrians and host communities by expanding waste management service delivery capacity of the local waste management authorities. Interventions in camp settings will improve living conditions for Syrian communities hosted in camps and interventions at non-camp settings will decrease tensions and improve living standards of Turkish and Syrian urban residents.





This project will establish a full-scale vocational training and skills building centre in Sanliurfa to support the agriculture, industry and service sectors. Sanliurfa has been selected as the site for the centre because this province has the second highest number of Syrian refugees in Southeast Anatolia, and Sanliurfa is a driving force within the regional economy.

Key aspects of the project are to:

- Understand where there is demand for labor in regional industries
- Establish an industrial vocational training and technical skills development center tailored to the needs of the region and skills of Syrian refugees

Overall the project will help build the local economy, strengthen skills of refugees and stabilize the regional economy. The project will also reduce tensions between refugees and local residents due to competition for jobs and will help the region benefit from the influx of Syrians.

Budget 3,500,000 USD

The Syrian crisis had a significant impact on the economy and social issues in the Southeast Anatolia Region of Turkey. Most affected are the border provinces of Gaziantep, Kilis and Sanliurfa. Syrian refugees contribute significantly to the local and national economy. The Syrian labour force is increasingly used in the industry, agriculture and small business sectors, sometimes illegally and below market rates. This situation creates concerns not only regarding unfair competition in the labour market, but also in unacceptable work environments, lack of regulation of employment conditions, and exploitation of a crisis situation within the informal economy. This competition for employment results in tension between Syrian and host communities. Syrians are blamed for taking jobs that Turkish citizens normally engage in, and Turkish businesses are blamed for exploiting Syrians as inexpensive and informal labour force.

There is also an undeniable benefit of the crisis on the local economy as well. Most of the aid distributed in the camps is supplied through the local companies. Similarly, international organizations extending cross-border humanitarian assistance to Syria also employ local businesses, creating opportunities for agricultural, agro-business and textile sectors. While a significant amount of small business owners exist in the region, most of them are unregistered, catering mainly for the Syrian residents in Turkey. Local business people address to potential expansion of the economy building on the business networks of Syrian investors in Turkey, and further opportunities remain to be exploited through partnerships and business development in Turkey. Hence, with a good strategy and service provision capacity, this opportunity of business expansion and other existing gaps in labour market can be utilized for the benefit of both the Syrian refugees and host communities.

Through the newly adopted temporary protection (TP) regulation, Syrians will be granted easier access to work with the understanding that the Syrian refugees will not have a chance to return to their countries in the short-term, and will be able to find ways to earn a decent living in Turkey. The TP regulation stipulates that employment services will be provided for the people under temporary protection, so the Government of Turkey, through its relevant line ministries, is working on laying out the framework of services available for the Syrians under TP. Legislation has identified details of work permits and employment services and is expected to be passed by the Council of Ministers. Subsequently, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, government and other local and central actors will provide employment services tailored to the current situation, addressing all impacted communities including the refugees.

The Project

The Issue

Anticipating the change in legislation, UNDP in collaboration with UNHCR conducted a survey on the skills and competencies of 4,000 Syrians under temporary protection in the Southeast Anatolia Region of Turkey. Findings in the March 2015 survey found that agriculture, service and industrial sectors are the main areas in which the Syrians under temporary protection have competencies. Based on the findings, a skills and competency development project was immediately developed for Gaziantep province and will be launched in the second half of 2015.

The goal of this project is to strengthen livelihoods in the impacted communities by strengthening refugees' employability and by connecting refugees to increased employment opportunities. It builds on existing programmes in the Southeast Anatolia Region, with a focus on economic development, entrepreneurship, skills development, and industry competitiveness.

The key strategy for Şanlıurfa province is to establish a vocational training center that is tailored to the needs of the local industrial, service and agricultural sectors and that utilizes the skills of Syrian refugees. The project is in full partnership and cost sharing has been coordinated with local partners.

Strategy

The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Southeast Anatolia Regional Development Administration, Şanlıurfa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sanliurfa Organized Industrial Zone and Sanliurfa Governorate. The project will also take overall guidance of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and work with Ministry of Education, Occupational Competency Board on vocational training issues. Regionally, technical support will be provided by the regional development agency, the provincial directorate of the national employment agency under the overall coordination of the GAP RDA, responsible for regional economic development of the Southeast Anatolia Region. UNDP will provide technical support for implementation and help recruit staff for overall planning, implementation and project monitoring.

Partnership Framework

The project will establish a vocational training centre and also better understand the demand for labor in order to develop skills training in areas most useful to the local economy. Key activities are to:

Understand demand for labor in industrial sectors

- Ensure plans and policies developed by the regional (GAP RDA Action Plan), sub-regional (İpekyolu Development Agency) and/or provincial (chambers) institutions are considered
- Collaborate with the Şanlıurfa Chamber of Industry and Trade, provincial directorates of the national small and medium enterprise agency and the National Employment Agency to integrate "demand for labor" and Syrian skills assessments conducted by UNDP and other institutions (i.e. National Employment Agency (İŞKUR - İşgücü taleplerini karşılamakla görevli kurumun), TUIK, GAP RDA, development agencies, and local chambers of commerce)
- Compile the findings of the assessments and prioritize local needs

Establish an industrial vocational training and technical skills development center

- Develop a business model and business plan for the centre
- Identify vocational training and technical skills programmes using findings from provincial level assessments

Activities

- Map locally available industrial sector vocational training and technical skills programmes with formally certified modules
- For non-existing programmes, develop and certify training modules, working with the Ministry of Education and Occupational Competency Board
- Identify, mobilize and train trainers for the programmes
- Identify participants through open call for applications publicized both in camps and non-camp urban districts
- Closely follow up on the construction of the Centre, coordinated by Gaziantep Chamber of Industry
- Procure supplies, equipment and machinery and ensure facilities are up to standard (training halls, computer labs, etc.)
- Develop strategic plans and action plans by industry sector to match and place graduates with the interested businesses

The full scale vocational training and skills building centre, serving Syrians under temporary protection in Şanlıurfa, will result in:

- 1000 Syrians benefitting from vocational training in the industrial sector
- 250 Syrians placed in local industries
- 1000 Syrians benefitting from vocational education and training in the service sector
- 1000 Syrians benefitting from vocational education and training in the agricultural sector

Impact

The centre will strengthen employment services that cater to the needs of the local economy while it is strengthening the skills of refugees. This will reduce tensions between refugees and local residents (due to competition for jobs) and stabilize the regional economy by formalizing the informal economy. The project will help the region benefit from the influx of Syrians and see it as having a positive impact economically.

The Project

This project establishes and operationalizes two grape processing, agro-food facilities in Kilis and Gaziantep. It will help the grape processing industry increase its competitiveness in the two provinces. It will also create employment opportunities for the residents of these provinces, including the Syrians under temporary protection. Key aspects of the project are to:

- Develop agricultural infrastructure in the provinces
- Carry out effective planning and marketing
- Build capacity for effective production management

The integrated grape processing facilities, near vineyards and accessible to markets, will create jobs in the short-term and will dramatically strengthen the grape processing industry in the long-term, positively impacting the local economy.

Budget 5,000,000 USD

The agro-food industry has great potential to revive the economy in Kilis and Gaziantep and has been included in economic development plans. Also, it is one of the leading industries emphasized in both the 2014-2018 action plans of GAP RDA and two regional development agency plans (Karacadağ, Dicle and İpekyolu). The Southeast Anatolia Region of Turkey is envisaged to be a “food base,” in which high quality and high added value products are produced, processed and supplied to both domestic and global markets, including Middle Eastern markets.

In early 2015, UNDP Turkey, in collaboration with UNHCR, mapped skills of refugees and found that the agriculture sector and agro-food industry were among the highest potential local economic activities in which Syrians under temporary protection are competent and/or willing to work. The grape industry was selected for the project because they are widely grown in Kilis and Gaziantep (Islahiye District), the leading host communities in the Southeast Anatolia region. Grapes were also identified in the government's competitiveness agenda as a strategic regional product.

In Kilis, grapes are the number two agricultural product, second only to olives. Grapes are produced by 120 members of Kilis Grape Producers Cooperative, including 90 women on 30 million square metres in Kilis. The industry was established in 2008 and annual production is approximately 30,000 tons per year. Although organized institutional grape-production exists in Kilis, the competitiveness of this economic activity is quite low. This is due to the lack of physical infrastructure (i.e. professional processing facilities, packaging and storage units) as well as inaccessibility to markets. Potential investment areas in Kilis are: grape drying, processing, packaging and product diversification (grape pulp, grape dessert).

In the Gaziantep Islahiye district, grapes are produced on 15,000 dunam (15 million square metres) of land by Gaziantep Grape Producers Union, which was established in 1994 and is currently composed of 300 members. Annual production is approximately 20,000 tons. As in Kilis, the competitiveness of grape industry in Gaziantep is impeded by lack of infrastructure and inaccessibility to markets. Establishment of pre-processing and packaging units along with grape pressing, pasteurization, and cold storage units would strengthen the industry.

The Issue

Similar projects in the olive industry, with support from the GAP RDA, UNHCR and UNDP have been successful. Kilis Organic Olive Producers Union established an organic olive oil facility in 2014, which processes, packages and stores the olives collected by local olive growers from their fields. Members of the Union bring their olives to the facility in which 80 tons of organic olive oil can be produced per day. The new organic olive oil facility started production in December 2014 and lessens the impact of the Syrian crises on the hosting region. Kilis organic olive oil facility is a success story for enhancing livelihoods and employability opportunities for the host communities and the Syrians under temporary protection. We expect similar success with the grape industry.

Strategy

The ultimate goal of the project is to strengthen the grape production industry while creating jobs for Syrians under temporary protection. Key strategies are to increase production and processing capacities as well as the competitiveness of local products. The two project sites are designed as prototypes so we can learn what works well and build that expertise into future projects in Turkey.

UNDP will collaborate with local economic development, employment and research institutions to carry out the grape industry improvement, entrepreneurial capacities, vocational skills and knowledge sharing. To ensure economies of scale, the project will concentrate efforts with organized producers/processors such as the unions and cooperatives.

The project will complement and build on ongoing activities of UNDP Turkey particularly on local economic development, taking into account the current situation in the region.

Partnership Framework

The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Southeast Anatolia Regional Development Administration and local cooperatives and unions operating in Kilis and Gaziantep. Additionally, UNDP will work with government agencies, provincial and local directorates including: Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB - Küçük ve Orta Ölçekli İşletmeleri Geliştirme ve Destekleme İdaresi Başkanlığı), İŞKUR, and regional/local academic institutions (universities, research institutions). UNDP will provide technical support for implementation and will recruit staff for overall planning, implementation and project monitoring.

Activities

Building on lessons learned in the olive industry project, activities are to:

- Establish small-scale agricultural infrastructure at the farm level
- Develop business models and business plans
- Construct processing facilities
- Procure packaging and storage units
- Carry out effective marketing, branding, product diversification, production management, and stock management
- Build capacity through vocational training and work-skills training

Impact

The Project will establish integrated grape processing facilities in Gaziantep and Kilis. Approximately 120 households of host communities in Kilis will directly benefit from the agro-food facility there and to be established in Kilis, whereas 300 households will directly be affected by the agro-food facility in Gaziantep. Jobs will be created for 250 Syrians under temporary protection in Kilis and Gaziantep. These Syrians will bring their previous expertise in agriculture to local industry as well as their business contacts and networks.

Lessons learned from these two pilot programmes will also be shared and applied in this and other economic development work, further strengthening the region. In the long-term, the grape production industry will be strengthened considerably, having a multiplicative economic impact.

