



Poverty

Corporate Social Responsibility

Acting
Locally

Digital Divide Disability

Creating

Millennium Development Goals

Choices

Environment

Climate Change

Gender Equality

Sustainable Development

Democratic

Governance Youth





Helen Clark
UNDP Administrator

“UNDP’s know-how, its ideas and its access to all stakeholders are but some of the assets we can bring to bear as we step up the fight against poverty, help tackle climate change and promote sustainable development, support crisis prevention and recovery, and advance democratic governance – all while working for gender equality.”

CREATING CHOICES

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The information about UNDP’s projects and activities in this brochure is not meant to be exhaustive but provide samples. And that we decided for consistency purposes not to include reference to donors for each project.

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"Give me a chance", reads the graffiti on a wall in Batman in Southeast Turkey.

At UNDP, we are working with local and international partners to turn such hopes into reality.

Who we are, what we do, and who we do it with

Helen Clark

UNDP Administrator

“With strong political will, committed development resources and strategic partnerships, and the right policy interventions backed by development stakeholders, we can make sure the MDGs are met on time. The poorest and most vulnerable deserve nothing less.”

As the UN’s global development network, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) links people in developing countries to the knowledge, experience and resources they need to build better lives. We work in close partnership with all levels of government as well as national and international institutions, including NGOs, academics and the business community.

Capacity building and gender equality are fundamental to our core work on democratic governance, poverty reduction, environmental preservation and sustainable development, as well as our bid to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce under-five mortality by two-thirds.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

1

What we do in Turkey

"Turkey, as a member of the world family, will continue to cooperate and share experience with UNDP to improve today's life standards - and those of the future - and contribute to international sustainable development."

Kemal Madenoğlu

Undersecretary of State Planning Organisation, Turkey Prime Ministry



UNDP has been active in Turkey since the 1950s. Our head office is in Ankara and we have project offices in 26 provinces. We engage a large number of experts, as well as programme and operation staff, who work on development projects throughout the country. At any one time, we have hundreds of contract employees engaged in anything up to 30 projects across 71 provinces.

In Turkey, UNDP focuses on poverty reduction, democratic governance, and environment and energy while promoting the protection of human rights, the empowerment of women, climate change adaptation and mitigation in all its programmes.

We work with the Government, civil society, private sector, academia, and other international partners to achieve national development priorities by providing technical assistance and capacity development strategies.

Our flagship publication, the 'National Human Development Report' (NHDR), is an important

source for advocacy and policy making, as it provides a critical snapshot of development at both a regional and national level.

The NHDRs are instrumental in evaluating human progress and triggering action for change. They are also tools for national policy debates and help place human development at the top of the political agenda. They reflect people's priorities, identify inequities and measure gaps in development priorities. Our 2008 report on youth in Turkey identified opportunities and challenges that could be provided to young people in education, health, employment and participation.

We have also developed specific support services for line ministries on topics such as financial management and reporting, procurement, transparent reporting practices and how to execute projects. This helps institutions move to simpler and more effective management practices for local development.

Poverty **Environment**
Digital Divide **Gender Equality**
Corporate Social Responsibility
Sustainable Development
Acting Locally
Millennium Development Goals
Climate Change
Democratic Governance **Disability**
Youth

Project Areas

Adana

- Women in Local Politics and Decision Making
- Localizing MDGs
- Enhancing Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change
- Industrial Symbiosis in Iskenderun Bay
- Rural Empowerment Initiative
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice
- Swiss-UNDP Fund for Youth

Adıyaman

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme
- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region
- Tele-Medicine

Ağrı

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme

Ankara

- Growth with Decent Work for All
- Every Drop Matters
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice
- Support to the Organizational Administration of the Judiciary
- Civic Engagement in Legislation Making
- Dissemination of E-Consulate Module of the MFA
- Technical Assistance to Ministry of Industry and Trade to Design and Implement a Cluster Support Program
- South – South Cooperation

Antalya

- Localizing MDGs
- Growth With Decent Work for All

Artvin

- Eastern Anatolia Tourism Project

Babaeski

- Localizing MDGs

Batman

- Diyarbakır-Batman-Siirt Development Project
- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme
- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region

Balıkesir

- Swiss-UNDP Fund for Youth
- Strengthening Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Bartın

- Strengthening the Forest Protected Areas

Bitlis

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme

Bingöl

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme

Bursa

- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice

Diyarbakır

- Localizing MDGs
- Diyarbakır-Batman-Siirt Development Project
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice
- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme
- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP region

Elazığ

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme

Erzincan

- Winter Tourism Corridor Project
- Sivas Erzincan Development Project Phase II

Erzurum

- Winter Tourism Corridor Project
- Eastern Anatolia Tourism Project
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice
- Civilian Oversight of the Internal Security Sector

Eskişehir

- Women in Local Politics and Decision Making

Gaziantep

- Corporate Services Corps Turkey Initiative (IBM)
- Harnessing Sustainable Linkages for SMEs in the Textile Sector
- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region

Hakkari

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme

Hatay

- Industrial Symbiosis in Iskenderun Bay

İstanbul

- Localizing MDGs
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice
- Civilian Oversight of the Internal Security Sector
- Rural Empowerment Initiative
- "Welcome Me to Your Digital World"
- "The Dreams Academy"
- Harnessing Sustainable Linkages for SMEs in the Textile Sector
- Young Human Network
- Mediterranean Youth Movement
- Tele-medicine

İzmir

- Women in Local Politics and Decision Making
- Localizing MDGs
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice
- Strengthening Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Kahramanmaraş

- Harnessing Sustainable Linkages for SMEs in the Textile Sector

Kastamonu

- Strengthening the Forest Protected Areas

Kayseri

- Enhancing the Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change

Kars

- Winter Tourism Corridor Project
- Alliances for Culture Tourism in Eastern Anatolia

Kocaeli

- Swiss-UNDP Fund for Youth

Konya

- Swiss-UNDP Fund for Youth
- Development of Practice of Mediation in Criminal Justice

Kilis

- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region

Kuşadası

- Localizing MDGs

Malatya

- Corporate Services Corps Turkey Initiative (IBM)
- Harnessing Sustainable Linkages for SMEs in the Textile Sector

Mardin

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme
- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region

Mersin

- Rural Empowerment Initiative
- Corporate Services Corps Turkey Initiative (IBM)

Muğla

- Swiss-UNDP Fund for Youth
- Strengthening Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

Muş

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme

Niğde

- Enhancing Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change
- Civilian Oversight of the Internal Security Sector

Osmaniye

- Industrial Symbiosis in Iskenderun Bay

Samsun

- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice

Siirt

- Diyarbakır-Batman-Siirt Development Project
- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme
- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region

Sivas

- Sivas Erzincan Development Project Phase II

Sanlıurfa

- Competitiveness Agenda for the GAP Region
- Industrial Restructuring of Şanlıurfa
- Women in Local Politics and Decision Making
- Şanlıurfa Organic Agriculture Project Phase I
- Renewable Energy Efficiency in the GAP Region (Phase I)
- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region

Sırnak

- Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP region
- Support to the Development of an IDP Program

Trabzon

- Women in Local Politics and Decision Making
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice

Tunceli

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme

Uşak

- Localizing MDGs

Van

- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme
- Support to the Development of an IDP Programme – Additional Component
- Development of Practice Mediation in Criminal Justice

Zonguldak

- Localizing MDGs

Apart from the ones listed above, the following projects are also implemented :

- Capacity Building for Climate Change : Whole Turkey
- Health Transition Project: Whole Turkey
- Partnership for Development with the Business Sector : Whole Turkey
- Bridging the Digital Divide: Empowerment of Youth : Whole Turkey
- National Climate Change Action Plan : Whole Turkey
- Financial Awareness (VISA) : Whole Turkey
- Civic Engagement: four provinces to be determined
- Local Agenda 21: City/Women/Youth Councils of 71 provinces
- Empowerment of Youth through E-governance: 69 provinces
- Local Administration Reform Programme II: 12 pilot authorities to be determined
- Bridging South-South Cooperation and Emerging Donor Role of Turkey: Turkey, Central Asia, Caucasus, Africa, Balkans, and the Middle East
- Welcome me to your Digital World: Whole Turkey
- Life Plus Youth Fund: 32 provinces
- Young Human Network: Whole Turkey



Thanks to the Sivas-Erzincan Development Project, sewage no longer runs openly in the streets in Karacalar.



The newly installed drainage and sewage system keeps the roads clean.

Karacalar success sets benchmark

Before the Sivas-Erzincan Development Project, Turkey's State Planning Organization had declared Karacalar, in Ulaş province, one of the poorest and most underdeveloped villages in Turkey. Sewerage ran openly in the streets, living standards bordered on subsistence and there was no sustainable local economy.

As a result of the project, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), and supported by UNDP, the village now has a new waste treatment plant and every house has been connected to the mains. In addition, vegetable farming now provides a regular income for Karacalar's farmers after they received training from agricultural engineers at MARA and an allocation of seeds. All families in the village now enjoy a healthier lifestyle that both respects and utilizes the environment around them.

The initiative has been so successful it is being hailed by many as a benchmark project, and has prompted surrounding villages to demand their local authorities provide similar facilities.

2

Who we work with

“Spain is a strong supporter of Turkey’s development efforts. In 2006 we committed USD750 million to the UNDP Trust Fund for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This money will be used across different UN country programmes over a three-year period. Just over USD17.5 million of this will be used in Turkey to develop programmes on climate change, youth employment, private sector development and cultural heritage and tourism. These projects have ambitious goals and are on-going, but with commitment from everyone involved, we are confident they can make a genuine impact on people’s lives.”

Ambassador Joan Clos Matheu

Ambassador of Spain to Turkey



Partnership is at the heart of everything we do at UNDP, and is crucial to the successful development and implementation of our Country Programme in Turkey. The UNDP programme supports Turkey’s social and economic reforms, national development priorities and achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We do this by focusing on three key areas: capacity development for democratic governance, advocating and supporting poverty reduction, and promoting environmental management and sustainable development.

To achieve these outcomes, UNDP works with a broad range of national and international partners.

Our main government counterparts in Turkey are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Planning Organization. These two agencies are involved in all our projects and programmes, and we work closely with them to develop the appropriate frameworks. Other government partners include most ministries and public agencies.

And to ensure broad based participation, we partner with civil society actors, the business community and academia as well as with large public institutions in Turkey such as the GAP Regional Development Administration and Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency.

Together with other UN agencies – both within and outside Turkey – we work on gender equality, climate change, youth employment, cultural heritage and tourism. For example, we are cooperating with UNESCO, UNWTO and UNICEF to promote cultural tourism in Eastern Anatolia, with the ILO and IOM to create employment opportunities for young men and women, and with FAO, UNEP and UNIDO in adapting to climate change. As a partner in the ‘UN Joint Programme on Women’s Rights’, we support municipalities as they develop and implement action plans to create women friendly cities around Turkey.

And of course, we have a number of bilateral and multilateral partners. For example, with the World Bank Office in Turkey, we have established a national discussion platform called ‘The Human Development Dialogue’. This allows Turkish academics and local and international professionals within the public service and civil society, to come together and share their experiences and analytical findings regarding human development. With the European Commission in Ankara, we exchange ideas on development policies and jointly develop interventions in support of development priorities and EU accession.

3

Millennium Development Goals

"The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey has financially supported UNDP's 'Localizing MDGs in Turkey' project through the 'Local Agenda 21 Project', and actively participated to localize MDGs in Turkey. As the private sector partner of the project, we cooperate with UNDP for local sustainable development. Hopefully, the project will be an example for the future."

M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu


TOBB President



Awareness campaigns are held at schools to inform students about poverty and the Millennium Development Goals.

Agreed to at the Millennium Summit in 2000, the MDGs represent the international community's blueprint for fighting poverty and advancing development globally. The MDGs promote poverty reduction, education, maternal health, gender equality, and aim to combat child mortality, AIDS and other diseases.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the MDGs by 2015, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half. To do this, developing countries have said they will govern better and invest in their men and women equally through health care and education. Meanwhile developed countries have committed to support them through aid, debt relief and fairer trade.

At UNDP, we work with a wide range of partners to help create coalitions for change to support MDGs at regional, national and global levels, to evaluate and monitor progress, and help countries build the institutional capacity, policies and programmes needed to achieve the MDGs.

Millennium Development Goals at the local level

UNDP, along with other UN agencies, is actively supporting Turkey's efforts to meet the MDGs. We call our approach 'localizing MDGs', which means we work with local stakeholders to identify priority areas and develop their capacities to address them. Key areas we help them address include local level action planning, local administration reform, poverty reduction and women's rights.

Across nine provinces in southeastern Anatolia, selected women receive vocational training for existing skills such as sewing and jewelry making to increase their participation in the labour force and reduce poverty. Networking and marketing

opportunities have been created and participants will receive on-going training to further boost their skills and allow them to train other women.

Through projects like this, we work with the Government to integrate the MDGs at the local level.

Along with other UN agencies, we also provided support to Turkish ministries when they had to prepare the country's first 'Millennium Development Goals Report'. Released in June 2005, the report proposed sector-specific policies to help achieve sustainability and ownership. It also contained quantitative implementation targets for the MDGs by 2015.



4

Reducing poverty

"In Turkey, the European Commission has worked with UNDP over the past five years in a wide variety of areas; civilian oversight, local administration, regional development and sustainable development. Our fruitful partnership with UNDP and the Turkish Government – at project and policy levels – has touched lives of thousands, through the training programmes that equipped civil servants, civil society organisations, entrepreneurs, and disadvantaged men, women and youth with new skills and capabilities, and through the employment opportunities created. Such cooperation has provided support to Turkey in the EU accession process."

Ambassador Marc Pierini



Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey



Large families often find it hard to escape poverty.

Extreme poverty in Turkey (those living on less than USD1 a day) is very low. However destitution is more widespread with 18.5% of the population living in food and non-food poverty. Research we commissioned in 2003 into poverty levels in Turkey showed there is an increase in 'new poverty' – poverty that is long-term and which can't be overcome through traditional support networks of family and friends.

Regional disparity is a key characteristic of poverty in Turkey. Eastern and southeastern regions have historically been much poorer than western areas. In addition women – particularly those living in remote rural areas and poor neighborhoods on the outskirts of large cities – have traditionally been economically disadvantaged. With the exception of life expectancy, all available indicators tend to be worse for women than men in Turkey, and the country comes off worse when compared to other middle-income countries.

Poverty reduction has been one of the top priorities for UNDP Turkey since the 1990s. UNDP reports have focused media and public attention on the problems surrounding this issue, and we have

played a key role in supporting the Government achieve poverty reduction goals. We have produced policy recommendations on priority areas such as social assistance schemes, management of utilities and reducing regional disparities, facilitated discussion amongst stakeholders, brought in international expertise when required and helped implement projects.

In particular, we have contributed to the economic development of South East Turkey through the Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Southeast Anatolia - the GAP-GIDEM project. Together with the European Commission, this project was developed to boost the competitiveness of the region in national and international markets. We established business development centers in Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Mardin and Şanlıurfa to provide a wide range of services such as training, information and consultancy services for small and medium enterprises, including female entrepreneurs. As a result of these efforts, new businesses and entrepreneurship training centres have been established and the competitiveness of local enterprises has been increased.

Between 2002-2007, UNDP Turkey provided consultancy services to 1,640 businesses, information services to 2,207 local beneficiaries and trained 4,443 men and women. While it is difficult to know the exact number of employment opportunities created, approximately 700 unemployed women and men found jobs following the training they received at the vocational training center established as part of the GAP-GIDEM Project.

The 'Competitiveness Agenda' developed for the Southeast Anatolia Region, which aims to provide a strategic vision and strategy for increased competitive strength, has been critically acclaimed by business and research communities both in Turkey and internationally. It was a key resource for the Turkish Government when it modeled its multi-billion-dollar action plan, launched in 2008.

An independent economic impact assessment carried out in 2007, revealed the GAP-GIDEM Project created an economic value of 10 Lira for each Lira spent on project activities.

Business course offers women a lifeline

For Neşe Seçen, Fatma Üzümcü and Suna Sezgin, taking part in the Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region project, has radically re-shaped their lives. The initiative, conducted jointly by the GAP Regional Development Administration and UNDP, is one of many such projects conducted since 1997, teaching women in Southeast Turkey the skills to earn a living and participate in social and economic life. Thanks to the project, these former stay-at-home mums are now relishing their new roles as managers of Batman Airport Café.

A high school graduate, Neşe did not make it to university. Like many women in her community, she ended up living with her parents. Neşe says that thanks to the programme, she is now more self-confident and enjoying her economic independence.

Fatma Üzümcü said she would still be at home doing housework if it were not for this project. But now she knows how to balance money, deal with customers, keep an enterprise going and manage her life.

The third partner in the café, Suna, was desperately looking for a job in order to feed her two children after being abandoned by her husband in Istanbul. "The café has changed my life dramatically," she said. "Not only can I now contribute to the family budget, I can also buy gifts for my little ones."

Taking over the management of Batman Airport Café has handed these three women a lifeline and their success is being repeated by others who have taken part in the project.



Fatma, Neşe and Suna enjoy a well-earned break after a busy day running the Batman Airport Café.

Local designs go national

Breaking into retail fashion is something few designers achieve. But thanks to the Innovations for Women's Empowerment in the GAP Region project, conducted by the GAP Regional Development Administration and UNDP, outstanding designs from local women in Southeast Turkey are now on sale in one of Turkey's biggest fashion chains, MUDO.

Part of a GAP sub-project, 'Nine Fashion Designers for Nine Cities', prominent Turkish fashion designers worked with local women to give them the technical assistance and training they needed to develop their products for commercial sale.

The new collection, sold under the brand name 'Argande', mixes Anatolian motifs and local fabrics with modern designs. It is available in 16 MUDO stores, which has provided support for the project. Profits go directly to the manufacturers of the brand in Southeast Anatolia.

*In the Ancient world, it was said that when the first rays of sunlight hit the stone face of Argande on Mt Nemrut – the goddess of fertility and beauty in the Kommagene Kingdom – the earth would light up for another day. Today, it is said Argande's magical powers continue, by spreading light from the hands of the women of the southeast.



After working with prominent designers, local women from Southeast Anatolia are now selling their own brand "Argande" through the prestigious fashion chain MUDO.

5

Building democratic governance

"The City Councils, constituting a new governance model in Turkey whereby public institutions, local authorities and civil society organizations form the triangle of local decision-making processes, have been incorporated in Article 76 of the renewed Law on Municipalities enacted in July 2005 and thereby attained a legal stronghold. Throughout the past decade of LA21 implementations, it has been a privilege for me to be firmly integrated in a unique social movement that paved the way for the rooting of democratic local governance principles and practices in our institutions and communities, as well as in our minds and hearts."

Sadun Emrealp



National Coordinator LA21 Programme



Ensuring citizens have a say in local governance is a cornerstone of the internationally-praised LA-21 programme.

Since 1997, UNDP Turkey has been working with the Government as well as our national counterparts – civil society organizations, community-based groups and universities – to promote participation, accountability, inclusiveness and effectiveness at all levels of governance.

At the heart of our work on democratic governance are four key outcomes: civic engagement, decentralization of local administration, promotion of a national human rights system and access to justice for all. Our most comprehensive programmes have been built around promoting civic engagement. These include the Local Administration Reform Programme and promoting civil society's engagement in creating legislation. The most groundbreaking initiative is the internationally praised Local Agenda 21 (LA-21) Programme, whose overall objective has been to strengthen local governance by ensuring civil society's participation in decision-making.

The programme involves a decentralized approach based on networking and collaboration among relevant partners and stakeholders. These include public institutions, local authorities and civil society organizations. Integral to this project has been the creation of city councils. These bring together all local stakeholders and are supported by working groups such as women's councils, youth councils and special interest groups made up of the elderly, the disabled and children.

As a result of the LA-21 programme, it is now law in Turkey that all cities must have a city council.

LA-21 has proven it can trigger social change in Turkey, which is needed to create a pluralistic and democratic governance system, as well as integration with the European Union. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg it was highlighted as a global 'best practice' project, and in 2007, it was awarded the 'best practice in governance'.

The Local Administration Reform Programme coordinated by the Ministry of Interior complements LA21. With the help of the European Commission, this project provides policy advice and technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior and other relevant stakeholders, including the union of municipalities, to build more responsive, accountable and inclusive local authorities.

To improve access to justice for all, we are working with the Ministry of Justice to review the organizational administration of the Turkish judiciary, and create a mediation institution within the criminal justice system as well as a framework for legal empowerment. To promote a national human rights system, we are supporting the development of a national programme for internally displaced people, to be implemented in 14 provinces in the southeast. UNDP Turkey is also working to increase civilian oversight of those delivering internal security services.



Sleeping beauty awakes

Mustafapaşa is a little-known gem hidden deep in central Cappadocia. A former Greek Ottoman town, it has over 100 heritage-listed mansions. But until a cultural rehabilitation project was launched in 2005 under the auspices of Local Agenda 21 (LA21), many buildings were derelict.

As a result of LA21 'Support to Local Projects' programme, conducted by the local government, town council and community volunteers, the entire population became aware of the importance of restoring and protecting the town's architectural and cultural heritage, and fully backed the project.

The former Secretary-General of LA21 in Mustafapaşa, Süreyya Aytaş, said the project had made people in the town realize that "we really can make a difference and improve our environment. The project opened up new horizons for us."

Aytaş said that thanks to LA21 training workshops provided to women, youth groups and the city council, those involved started to address other problems in the town. One outcome, she said, had been that many women started to play an active role in the town's social and work life.

"In my opinion," said Aytaş, "the biggest contribution of LA21 to Mustafapaşa has been to pave the way for our women to come out of their homes and into the heart of social life, as individuals who can freely express themselves and try to find solutions to their needs and problems single-handedly."



Thanks to LA-21, the partly derelict town of Mustafapaşa in Cappadocia is undergoing a renaissance.



Sema Turan Yapıcı, the member of the Adana Women Council, discusses the women's roadmap for elections at a Women's Coalition coordination meeting in Ankara.

Women's councils develop new policy approaches

Adana Women's Council is one of 60 municipality councils in Turkey, established as part of the LA21 Programme. It is one of the best practice examples of women participating in politics at the local level.

Since its founding in 2002, Adana Women's Council has tried to build policy proposals and bring stakeholders together to work on issues such as women's legal rights, violence, communication and disability.

According to Sema Turan Yapıcı, spokesperson for the Politics and Women Working Group, Adana Women's Council wants to fight the mentality that women are "non-existent", despite the fact they are 50% of the population.

6

Environment and energy for sustainable development

“At the Turkish Industrialists’ and Businessmen’s Association (TUSIAD), the studies on sustainable development, environment and climate change have been increasing in parallel with increased public awareness on these issues. TUSIAD cooperates with UNDP to raise society’s awareness of these issues that require cooperation at regional, national and international levels. We support Turkey’s participation in the Kyoto Protocol within the framework of sustainable development principles.”

Zafer Ali Yavan



TUSIAD Secretary General



UNDP carries out projects that address climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, land degradation, water management, protected areas and sustainable development. (Kapuzbaşı Waterfalls, Aladağlar, Niğde Province.)

Climate change, water shortages, and a lack of clean and affordable energy resources are areas of concern the world over. In Turkey, as elsewhere, these environmental problems severely hinder efforts to achieve sustainable development.

To help Turkey find solutions, we work closely with a number of government agencies, municipalities, private sector partners and NGOs, to integrate environmental concerns into development policies and programmes. We help combat environmental degradation by promoting projects that address climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, land degradation, water management, protected areas and sustainable development.

One example is the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) Small Investment Fund. With our partner, the BTC Pipeline Company, we support local, non-government organizations using conservation and sustainable land-use methods along the Turkish section of the BTC pipeline. It is hoped that this approach will reverse bio-diversity loss in these areas.

On the broader policy front, we worked with the Government to prepare the First National Communication of Turkey to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This was a major step for Turkey to take part in international climate change negotiations.

The next big environmental goal Turkey achieved was ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, which it did in 2009. UNDP was able to help facilitate this process through initiatives such as voluntary carbon trading and capacity development for climate change management.

To build the capacity needed to effectively manage climate change risks, the Turkish Government, with assistance from UNDP and in cooperation with partners such as the UK and Spain, is making climate change part of mainstream policy within the national development framework. UNDP will continue to work with the Government to achieve its climate change targets beyond the completion of the Kyoto regime.



Villagers are reaping the rewards of sustainable agricultural practices.



Within just a year, Kuyumcu Tekke's muhtar said his village had clean running water thanks to a joint rooftop rain-water harvesting project realised jointly with UNDP and Coca-Cola.

Water harvesting gives village new lease on life

Kuyumcu Tekke is a small village in the central Anatolian plateau. With an unforgiving environment, the village youth are long gone, abandoned houses are ready to topple, and the only inhabitants are a small band of elderly farmers and their wives.

In 2007, severe weather conditions had led to a serious depletion of ground and surface water. Household taps had run dry, and the future of Kuyumcu Tekke seemed bleak.

Within the space of just a year, the village had clean running water thanks to a three-year sustainable rooftop water-harvesting project, realised through a partnership between UNDP and the Coca-Cola Company.

7

Acting locally, conserving globally

"We received SGP support to protect our local seeds in Kars region. And through our efforts we witnessed a desire and awareness raised in our farmers and public institutions. More and more of our younger farmers in our region are choosing nature friendly organic agriculture and the consumption of those products are increasing by the day"

İlhan Koçulu



Chairman of the Board, Boğatepe Environment and Life Foundation Kars



Sustainable land use is crucial for a healthy environment.



The Small Grants Programme promotes the conservation of agro-biodiversity through organic farming and traditional agriculture methods.

A growing population, urbanization and environmental degradation are putting Turkey's ecosystems under ever increasing strain. Everyone is affected, but poor people disproportionately so, as they depend more than others on natural resources for their livelihood.

The Small Grants Programme (SGP), a corporate partnership programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP, provides financial and technical support to conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's wellbeing and livelihoods. Since its start in Turkey in 1993, the SGP has provided around 180 small

grants for community-based projects. It tackles threats to globally significant biodiversity across all ecosystems focusing on conservation and sustainable use. It also supports projects that combat climate change.

In addition, the SGP promotes the conservation of agro-biodiversity through organic farming as well as other nature-friendly and traditional agricultural methods. In this way, it supports both the conservation of the ecosystem and raises consumer and producer awareness to generate supply and demand for organic products.



Organic farming pays off: two case studies

Ancient seeds take root in Kars

Before the SGP project started, the ecosystem in Kars in eastern Anatolia was seriously degraded and local communities were living in poverty. Once home to the world's first wheat seeds that fed millions (Kavılca – emmer wheat – *Triticum dicococcum*), today's residents couldn't even afford to buy commercial seed packets. Having been forced to abandon their traditional diet, they were also starting to experience serious health problems.

But thanks to the SGP, the fate of the entire province has changed. Today ten villages have created their own internal economies and improved their living standards.

Not only was the 10,000 year-old wheat seed reintroduced, but organic farming methods were introduced to the villages located in environmentally sensitive areas. Soil damaged due to years of intensive farming and harmful agricultural practices was repaired and new income streams were created for locals.

At the beginning of the project only six farmers were harvesting 350kg of Kavılca wheat annually. Now, nearly 350 farmers are producing 2000 tons of Kavılca. Kavılca provides a sustainable livelihood to many in the province and is well on its way to becoming a well-known brand all over Turkey. Importantly, the ecosystem has also benefited.

Organic agriculture creates jobs in eastern Anatolia

Nazmi Ilıcalı, a former literature teacher, also known as 'Organic Nazmi', has become something of a local hero in eastern Anatolia. With 100 other farmers, he founded the NGO 'Eastern Anatolia Agricultural Producers and Breeders Association', which has pioneered organic agriculture in Turkey.

In addition to establishing the first organic flour-processing factory in the country, the Association is engaged in several trail-blazing projects. Supported by the Small Investments Fund, established by UNDP in partnership with the BTC Environmental Investment Programme, Ilıcalı's association has enhanced the value of existing local seeds. This has increased farmers' motivation, productivity and income.

The Association will soon launch the first organic bread in Turkey made from local seeds. "Without UNDP we couldn't have achieved this," said Ilıcalı. "Thanks to UNDP we learned how to manage projects." He said the success also means locals are happier to stay in the region, as more jobs are being created.



Nazmi Ilıcalı is known locally as 'Organic Nazmi' for his work in promoting organic agriculture.

8

Equality between women and men

“UNDP has been instrumental in promoting women’s rights and gender equality in Turkey over the past years, which has lead to substantial results such as the strengthening of the women’s coalition, the establishment of women’s study centers in universities and of the Gender Equality Commission in Turkey. UNDP should continue its efforts by advocating for women’s empowerment and building the bridge between all gender equality stakeholders in Turkey.”

Dr. Selma Acuner



Co-founder of the Association for the Education and Support of Women Candidates (KADER)



Empowering women and promoting gender equality is a key focus for UNDP Turkey.

Gender equality is fundamental for all democratic societies that are committed to and work towards achieving human development. While Turkey has taken steps towards developing the legal framework for gender equality, Turkish women still face many difficulties when it comes to equal representation and participation in social, economic and political spheres.

At 24%, the participation rate of women in the labour market is the lowest among OECD countries. And the rates are worse regarding women’s participation in politics, with only 9% representation in parliament and 1.5% in local councils. In the 2005 ‘Millennium Development Goals Report’, the Government of Turkey acknowledged women’s unequal access to political decision-making as a shortcoming of Turkey’s democratic practice and set the target for women’s representation in the parliament at 17% by 2015.

Given these gender imbalances, we work hard at UNDP to integrate gender equality into all areas of our work in Turkey. Key to our success in promoting equality between women and men is the engagement of men in gender projects, and in particular, the involvement of young men and women. This strategy has laid the foundation for success in a number of projects UNDP supports, such as Women in Local Politics, Youth Councils and the Women’s Coalition Network. Established in 2006 as a local platform, the Women’s Coalition is now the leading national group lobbying for women’s increased involvement in decision-making and politics.

Through capacity development activities, we are working to empower 150 women and men – at both national and local levels – to be part of decision-making processes and promote women’s human rights. This work has involved women and men from political parties, NGOs, civic platforms, academia, local authorities and government agencies.

To promote public awareness on the importance of equality, we work closely with the media, particularly at national workshops. Engaging the media led to an important milestone just before the 2007 General Election. UNDP’s public opinion

“Sweden supports Turkey’s EU accession process and its efforts on democratization and human rights. For the past years our cooperation with UNDP Turkey has focused on gender equality and women’s empowerment, and has resulted in increased incomes for over 300 women in Southeast Anatolia as well as the consolidation of the nationwide Women’s Coalition to promote women’s participation in decision making. We look forward to continuing our joint initiatives and further develop our synergies with UNDP to support Turkey’s progress in human development.”

Ambassador Christer ASP



Ambassador of Sweden to Turkey

poll on the involvement of women in politics, which revealed that 82% of participants in Turkey wanted to see more women in politics, was publicized widely by the media.

Equally, we have been working hard to promote women’s economic empowerment and equal participation in the workplace. Since 2004, we have supported women entrepreneurs in partnership with the Southeastern Anatolia Regional Development Administration, both at the grassroots and policy levels.



UNDP's Women in Politics project encouraged women to leave a mark in the local elections held in the Spring of 2009.

Women needed in local politics

"We see we are not alone as people working for gender equality. In the field you meet with too many people who have given up their dreams for gender equality, which takes from your positive energy. Thanks to all of you, and the organizers, for giving me the positive corporate energy to work to achieve gender equality."

"My sincere thanks to UNDP and all the trainers for increasing my level of understanding on women's needs and problems. As a man I was in need of this information while working with women at various platforms such as National Youth Parliament and City Councils."

Comments made by workshop participants.

In the lead-up to Turkey's local elections in March 2009, a series of workshops to build capacity at a local political level were held in Adana, Trabzon, İzmir, Eskişehir and Şanlıurfa. Part of UNDP's Women in Local Politics and Decision Making project, the interactive sessions addressed issues such as how to run an effective local election campaign, why women should take part in local politics, specific local problems as well as looking at what other countries are doing.

Each workshop attracted around 30 participants and included representatives from the women's councils, youth councils, Women's Coalition and members of all seven political parties represented in the parliament. Men and women were encouraged to take part, as was the local media. Those taking part said such workshops were vital to building awareness regarding the current status of women's participation in local politics. Many found it shocking that currently less than 2% of women participate in politics at the local level in Turkey, compared to one in five in European countries.

9

Creating opportunities for youth

"Five years ago, Coca-Cola Turkey, working with UNDP, created the Life Plus Youth Fund – an avenue for environmentally innovative, participatory and sustainable youth projects. At Coca-Cola, we place sustainability at the center of our business and with this objective, we believe in the importance of empowering local civil society movement. Young adults are the main actors in the Life Plus Youth Fund. Being engaged in Life Plus, they have begun to construct their own communities based on principles of participation and sustainable development. This is one of the positive consequences of our long-term support."

Ebru Bakkaloğlu Tüzecan

Coca-Cola Turkey Business Unit Public Affairs and Communications Director

Turkey's youth – those aged between 15 and 24 years – make up 17.6% (12.4 million) of the population. Of this total, 30% (3.72 million) go to school and another 30% (3.72 million) work. The remaining 40% (4.96 million) are 'idle'; they don't go to work or school. We call them 'invisible'.

To help Turkey provide its youth with the opportunities they value, UNDP has developed some innovative approaches. Through youth platforms and national summits, we have helped create awareness about youth unemployment and promoted change in local governance by supporting the LA21 Youth Councils. With the private sector, we have encouraged young people to create projects that not only enrich their environment, but widen their horizons.

One such project is the 'Life Plus Youth Fund'. In partnership with Coca-Cola Turkey, UNDP

works with young people to address local development needs by providing them with the necessary guidance, tools and resources. For example, one Life Plus project aims to clean the Gediz Basin in the west of Turkey and stop further pollution. Another innovative youth project is the S-UN Fund for Youth that, in partnership with Turkey Youth and Sports General Directorate and Swiss Development Agency, empowers young women and men through their involvement in community-based activities on migration, culture and arts.

We also focused solely on youth in our 'Turkey 2008 National Human Development Report'. This report discussed the current situation and suggested strategies the Turkish Government could investigate for new youth policies. The report was awarded the 2009 Human Development Excellence Awards for influencing national policy debate.



Gülgönül Bozoğlu became active in youth work after she started working in her local LA-21 office.

Turkey's youth working on solutions

When Gülgönül Bozoğlu told a friend that after graduation she wanted a job that “puts the individual at the centre, has an international dimension, is dynamic and beneficial to society”, he just laughed. But she was determined and in 2003 she started working at LA21's Yalova office.

There she came into contact with UNDP and the Youth for Habitat Association. In a meeting at their Antalya office, youth from all over Turkey exchanged ideas on legislation and gave their suggestions to the Premier's Chief Advisor, who passed them on to the Turkish Parliament. Gülgönül also started to attend the association's meetings, where she got the chance to discuss solutions to youth problems. “The incorporation of our decisions into local legislation was not only amazing but also satisfying,” she said.

Today Gülgönül takes part in the National Youth Parliament and continues working for local youth councils and the Youth Association for Habitat. “Local councils and Youth Association for Habitat change hundreds of young people's lives by increasing their social responsibility and giving them a chance to get involved in decision-making processes,” said Gülgönül.

Youth Plus provides life skills

Getting involved in the Youth Plus initiative to clean the Gediz Basin was a first for Sibel Polater. It gave her not only very useful project management experience, but a sense of having helped her immediate environment and community.

Sibel said “The Life Plus project, which included training on project design and management, as well as workshops on developing ideas through feedback, gave me a sound understanding of the project management framework. Following this training, a new vision to our project emerged. Now, we have new ideas, new friends and most importantly a new desire, one that is stronger, to make a positive impact on society. Through this project, we were able to give something back to our local community where we were born and raised. For me, Life Plus represents the beginning of many things.”



The Life Plus Youth Fund project inspires young people to get involved in local issues.

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Information and communication technologies for development

"We have long been close partners with UNDP in Turkey in the information and communication technologies (ICT) space, from healthcare, education, rural development, women and ICT and digital inclusion. I strongly believe technological access will define the winners and losers of the global quest to live in a fair and wealthier society in the future. Our partnerships with agencies like UNDP are strongly helping the Turkish public remain on the winning side."

Çiğdem Ertem



General Manager Intel Turkey

Despite having a large young population, computer and internet usage in Turkey is still not as high as in the more developed world. According to a 2008 survey¹, computer usage is 29.6% and internet usage is 24.47%. When combined with employment and income statistics, this profile suggests Turkey's youth, especially those in less developed regions, do not enjoy the cultural and intellectual opportunities available to their peers in other countries.

To promote communications technology (ICT) and its use in Turkey, UNDP has worked in partnership with both government administrations and the private sector.

Since the 1960s, UNDP has worked with Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen its human resources and ICT infrastructure. Through the creation of an e-archive and automated consulate system, the Ministry has introduced smarter ways to work and store information. An expertise that can be shared with other ministries has been developed.

In partnership with the Youth for Habitat Association, UNDP has worked with Cisco to expand its Networking Academy Programme in less developed regions of Turkey and fulfill the need for ICT skilled employees. Furthermore, a virtual Youth Councils Community site was created to share knowledge and experience, promote networking and democratic participation in local governance structures in Turkey. This site was nominated as a finalist at the World Summit Youth Award in 2009.

Other award winning e-projects include a computer-literacy training programme for youth – with a particular emphasis on IT training for women – which was delivered in partnership with Microsoft and Vodafone. It aimed to increase the participation of youth in Turkey in the new information-based global society. UNDP Turkey also works with Intel, IBM and Digital Opportunity Trust to deliver innovative e-services and networking platforms to those living in remote areas.



Volunteering to teach computer literacy as part of a project offered by the Youth for Habitat Association, UNDP and Microsoft, helped Neslihan Şahin professionally.

Volunteering pays off

After graduating from the Computer Technologies and Programming department at Istanbul University, Neslihan Şahin was at a loose end. Then she heard about a teaching programme being offered by the Youth for Habitat Association, UNDP and Microsoft.

The project encouraged over 900 young volunteers to teach disadvantaged women and men basic computer skills. Neslihan signed up and after receiving her ICT volunteer training, she taught more than 100 disadvantaged youth. Eventually she became a master trainer.

When Neslihan later applied to be a graphic designer with Dogan Publishing, which owns a number of newspapers in Turkey, they said they were impressed with her volunteering work. "Companies now want employees that are proactive and outgoing and participate in joint projects," said Neslihan. Thanks to the course, Neslihan says she also improved her communication, writing and presentation skills.

Taking part in the project not only impressed her new employers and helped her get the job she was after – she is now a designer on a Turkish national daily newspaper called *Radikal* – it also allowed her to do some networking, which resulted in a two-month internship with a well-known cartoonist in Turkey.

¹ Household Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Usage Survey 2008, Turkish Statistics Institute.

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Corporate Social Responsibility

"AKSA joined the UN Global Compact in 2006. Since then, the company has incorporated the Global Compact Principles in its strategy, mission, corporate culture and business processes. Global Compact is a vital contract as it deals with the most significant factor: our people."

Mustafa YILMAZ



AKSA Acrylic Board Member and General Manager

12

Improving life for the disabled

"We work together with UNDP to integrate young people with disabilities into everyday life. We created Dreams Academy with the aim of making art accessible to disabled youth and organizing workshops on different art forms, including painting, music, dance and design."

Ercan TUTAL



Chairman and Coordinator of Alternative Life Association (AYDER)



UNDP is committed to the long-term goal of helping organizations become more socially responsible. We promote corporate social responsibility through the United Nations Global Compact. This is a global corporate citizenship initiative that sets out a universal set of principles for anti-corruption, human rights, labour standards and the environment.

Around 200 Turkish companies and national institutions have joined the UN Global Compact since it was launched in Turkey in 2002.

There are nearly 8.5 million disabled people in Turkey and they represent 13% of the population. 79% of these are unemployed, 36% are illiterate and 52% are not covered by any social security network.

At UNDP we cooperate with the civil society along with public and private institutions to help integrate disabled people into daily life. Project activities range from arts and body language to sports and music. All activities aim to improve their self-confidence and enhance their physical and mental development.





Kemal Mallı was living on the streets before getting involved in the joint UNDP-AYDER Dreams Academy project.



Kemal also helps with other activities like wood-work painting workshops within Dreams Academy in his spare time.

Dreams Academy DJ

Disabled, unemployed and living on the streets, Kemal Mallı says the Dreams Academy programme, a joint UNDP and AYDER project, was a turning point in his life.

Kemal firmly believes Dreams Academy will provide employment opportunities for him and his fellow trainees who are also physically, economically and socially-disadvantaged. "I learned that nothing is impossible at the Dreams Academy", said Kemal, "and I also found love and respect, which I hadn't felt for a long time."

UNDP at UN

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is one of the leading agencies of the United Nations (UN), which was founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries, including Turkey, who were committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

UNDP was among the international agencies that were established by the UN member states to cooperate on specific matters such as development, children's protection and health. Headquartered in New York, UNDP was established in 1965.

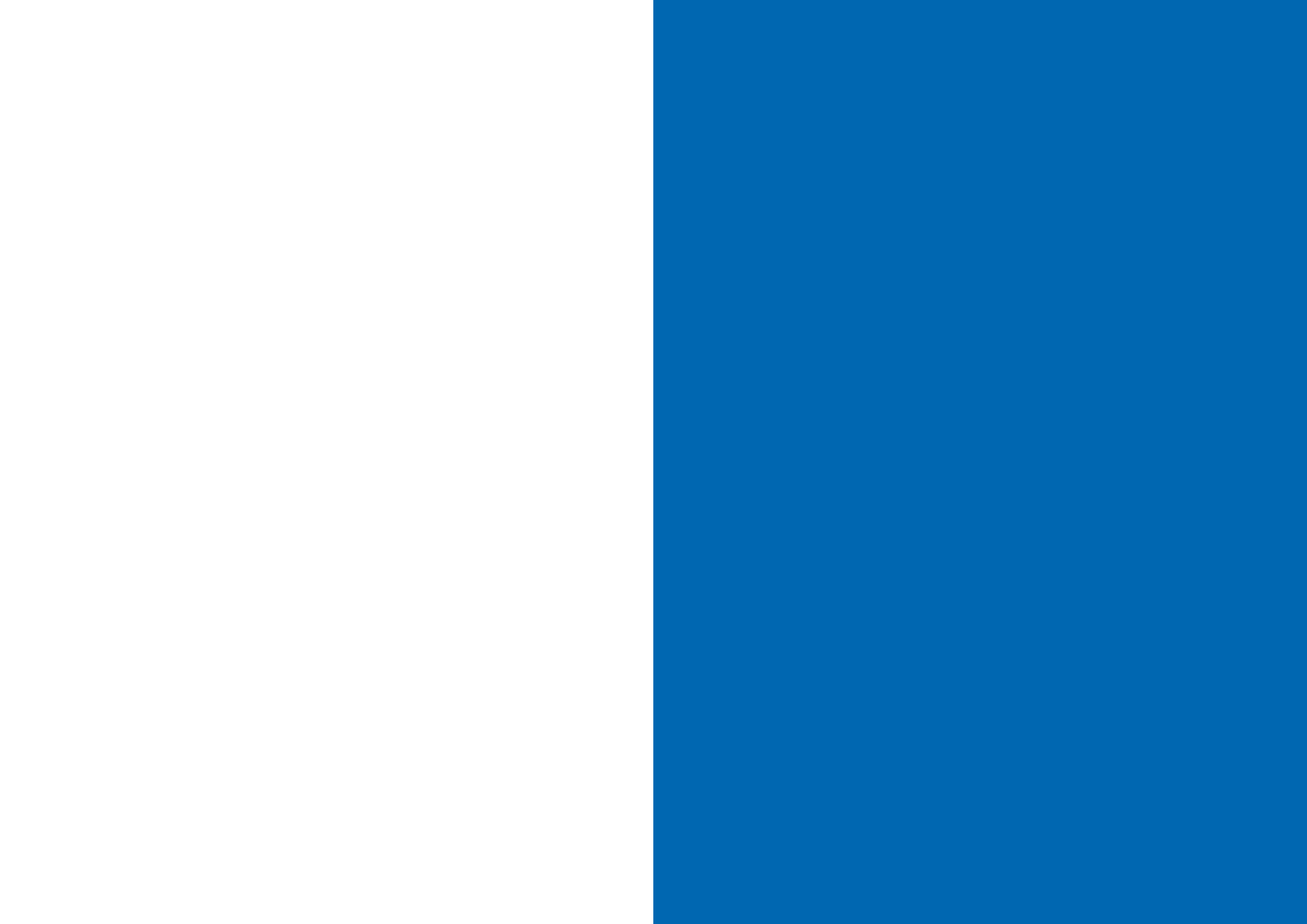
UNDP is funded both by the voluntary contributions to the organization's regular (core) resources and the contributions to the non-core resources which consist of multilateral, bilateral donor resources, local resources channeled through UNDP by programme countries and other sources of funds. UNDP has offices in about 166 countries, where it works with governments, civil society, private sector, academia and members of the UN family and international community to develop national capacities and meet development challenges.

Contacts

For more detailed information on all our areas of support, and how the UNDP is building and sharing solutions to human development challenges in Turkey, please contact :

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