

## Outcome 3

**By 2020, central and local administrations and other actors more effectively protect and promote human rights, and adopt transparent, accountable, pluralistic and gender sensitive governance systems, with the full participation of civil society, including the most vulnerable.**

### OUTPUT 3.1

**Transparent and efficient judicial system providing better access to justice and redress for all, especially groups facing vulnerabilities**

Strategic Plan outputs to which the CPD output contributed during the year:

1.6.1 Country-led measures accelerated to advance gender equality and women's empowerment

1.6.2 Measures in place and implemented across sectors to prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

2.2.3 Capacities, functions and financing of rule of law and national human rights institutions and systems strengthened to expand access to justice and combat discrimination, with a focus on women and marginalised groups

Istanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process and Measures for the Effective Implementation of the Istanbul Declaration developed with the Court of Cassation (CoC) was presented to 28th Session of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) under Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 20-24 May 2019. The Resolution E/RES/2019/22 was approved by ECOSOC on 23 July 2019 and Member States were recommended to adopt principles of Istanbul Declaration in domestic rule of law.

Establishment of Ethics Advisory Committee within CoC strengthened its self-monitoring mechanism and nine advisory decisions were taken by the Committee. Country Office support was provided to the National Human Rights and Equality Institution (NHREI) raising the awareness of its members for the start of accreditation process.

In the scope of the Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Project Phase II, an Evaluation Report was produced following the surveys and assessment studies carried out in 7 pilot provinces. The findings paved the way to the idea of creating Violence Prevention Centres (VPCs) under local bar associations with the ultimate objective of providing easier access to justice, quality counselling and providing durable solutions for people subjected to violence.

Throughout the implementation of Enhancing Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Refugees in Turkey Project (UNJP), a needs assessment study was carried out in 7 pilot provinces in order to identify the current capacity of Ministry of Justice for providing relevant services to refugees and other vulnerable groups in host communities and strengthen the capacities of national and local institutions. Based on the findings of the needs assessment, UNJP contributed to the development of the capacities of relevant justice sector actors by designing tailor-made training modules and delivering trainings.

### **Gender equality and women's empowerment**

Training programme on ethical principles provided to the CoC members, judges and prosecutors has placed emphasis on the representation of women among the personnel and judges. Gender ratio of the heads of chambers, members, rapporteur judges and public prosecutors was (excluding the personnel) 63% male, 37% female (531 male, 311 female). Istanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process and Measures for the Effective Implementation of the Istanbul Declaration, which has been adopted as the Resolution "E/RES/2019/22" by the ECOSOC on 23 July 2019, cover important measures for providing access to transparent justice services for all with gender emphasis.

In the scope of the Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Project Phase II, a Gender Action Plan was drafted taking into account the local dynamics of each pilot province having different requirements in terms of coping with Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

The establishment of Violence Prevention Centres (VPCs) will be conducted in a gender sensitive manner and is expected to provide women with the opportunity to seek counselling and advice by qualified experts and lawyers.



For Enhancing Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Refugees in Turkey Project (UNJP), a Gender Action Plan addressing the specific needs of refugees was drafted. The analysis carried out in the scope of the UNJP put forward that justice sector actors- especially lawyers- need more training on gender equality and on how to approach people subjected to violence.

## **UNDP's interventions**

UNDP's international experience and knowhow as well as the broad network of experts in the field of human rights and rule of law have provided an important contribution in increasing the impact of the projects in the field. UNDP's pool of qualified experts was crucial for the achievements of the results. Reports and policy recommendations were drafted by a team of international and national experts in close consultation with all relevant beneficiaries in justice and legal aid sector. In that respect, the international expertise is transferred to local context, which created the ownership and implementation of the policy recommendations at all levels.

## **Partnerships**

In the area of access to legal aid and transparency in judiciary, strong partnerships were established between justice actors in Turkey, between the Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), between the CoC, Constitutional Court and the Council of State and also between the CoC and almost 50 High Courts all around the world.

The interventions went beyond the project implementation and transformed into strong partnerships in the justice sector. The strong partnership established with the Court of Cassation resulted in notable achievements for both Turkey and UNDP, beyond the expected project outputs, with the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process and Measures for the Effective Implementation of the Istanbul Declaration by ECOSOC.

On the UN agencies side, the needs for further and better legal aid service delivery and effective partnerships between UNHCR and UTBA led to the development of a joint programme between UNDP and UNHCR and awarded with a funding from Global Rule of Law Programme.