

Outcome 4

Improved legislation, policies, implementation and accountability mechanisms to enable equal and effective social, economic and political participation of women and girls by 2020

OUTPUT 4.1

Capacities of national gender equality machinery strengthened to promote women's rights and gender sensitive policies including at local level

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

In Turkey Resilience Project in response to Syria Crisis, Municipal Service Delivery Component (C2) needs assessment in Hatay and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipalities have been completed. In Hatay, despite a significant lack of know-how with respect to gender equality, the municipality is very open to transformative change and included a gender equality perspective into its five-year Strategic Plan based on the suggestions by UNDP Turkey Country Office. In Hatay a workshop on how to establish and run women's shelters were conducted. In Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, the project development unit was supported in terms of developing gender responsive projects.

Within the framework of Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Project Phase I, 408 law professionals received training on human rights and migrants' rights including specific emphasis on women's and girls' rights and needs in 2019. As a result, legal practitioners started to use gender equality lens for case assessment and adjudication. Within the scope of Support to the Improvement of Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice for All in Turkey Project Phase II, situation mapping and needs assessment study on coordination between NGOs and Local Bar Associations have been carried out. 6 awareness raising and information campaigns were organized in 6 provinces for refugees. Approximately 500 refugees participated in these events. The subjects discussed during these campaigns were usually about legal protection, combatting violence against women and girls and fighting against harmful traditional practices such as child marriages.

Enhancing Access to Justice and Legal Aid for Refugees in Turkey Project (UNJP) contributed to strengthening the capacities of gender equality machinery in the pilot provinces. Project provided the justice sector actors such as judges, prosecutors, social experts and psychologists working at courthouses with the information about correct adjudication of refugee cases with Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) aspect.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

In Hatay and Gaziantep, a comprehensive needs assessment was prepared through reviewing all relevant documents (strategy plans, activity plans, project documents), and interviewing key personnel from a gender lens. Additionally, women's civil society organizations were visited to understand their needs and establish a connection between them and the Municipality. In Hatay, presentation on how to write a gender responsive Strategy Plan was delivered to related staff and a workshop on women's shelter was organized. 8 of 10 participants were male and 2 were female. In Gaziantep, policy recommendations including views of civil society organizations were prepared; informative brochures on Gender Based Violence (GBV), employment, health and education of women were prepared to be disseminated in public space. In short, the project established necessary and close connections with municipalities and women's Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Work with Bar Associations is also on track in terms of capacity building as well as forging links with CSOs that will be instrumental in running the Violence Prevention Centers to be established in 7 pilot provinces.

It is expected that the real referral mechanism between Bars and the victims wishing to receive legal aid will function through the NGOs working in the field of women's rights as these NGOs have the trust of the GBV victims.