



UNITED
NATIONS
TURKEY



UNITED
NATIONS
TURKEY



TURKEY: Development Agenda for **Post-2015** - National Consultations Report



www.post2015turkey.org
Designed for National Consultations Process

UN House, Birlik Mah. 415. Cad. No:11 06610 Çankaya/Ankara
Phone: +90 312 454 10 52 / Fax : +90 312 496 14 99
www.un.org.tr



Development Agenda of Turkey for **Post-2015**

National Consultations Report



UNITED
NATIONS
TURKEY

Development Agenda of Turkey for **Post-2015**

National Consultations Report

© United Nations Turkey Country Team 2013

The analysis and recommendations of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views of the United Nations or its agencies. Textual material may be freely reproduced with proper citation, as appropriate. All rights reserved for photographic materials.

All of the theme-based photographic material used in this publication and its cover pages are selected from the submissions for Instagram based photograph contest organized by UN Turkey.



PREFACE

With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaching their target date, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) devised an innovative methodology for identifying global development challenges beyond 2015, through the involvement of peoples from all over the world. The process was designed to facilitate consultations amongst multiple stakeholders in order to understand their expectations and dreams for the world beyond the MDGs.

In August 2012, Turkey was selected as one of the first 50 countries to be a part of this global process. Since then, the UN in Turkey, in cooperation with its partners, has been leading the dialogue on the Post-2015 development agenda in the country and asking national stakeholders the question asked by the UN globally: “What future do you want?”

Despite its many successes, the major challenge for the MDGs was developing an inclusive development paradigm applicable and appropriate for every country situation. Responding to the UN Secretary-General’s call for an inclusive framework, which ensures a bottom to top flow of information, making use of social media and all the other technological opportunities available to us today, the UN in Turkey followed an approach which allowed people to actively participate in identifying their priorities for the future. The national consultations in Turkey aimed at reaching the maximum number of people through online and face to face sources and utilized their contributions for influencing the global development agenda, Post-2015. In so doing, the process focused on developing a strong sense of national ownership through a participatory process. Academia, media, private sector, civil society organizations and decision makers such as politicians, government officials and parliamentarians took part in the process. Given the fact that half of the Turkish population is under 24 years of age, youth were accorded the highest priority in the process. A continuous online consultation mechanism was established, eleven thematic and five regional meetings were organized, four youth summits were mobilized to discuss the Post-2015 development agenda and the findings of all of these meetings were brought to a validation meeting at the conclusion of the process.

This report captures the findings of the process which we are now pleased to share widely. It calls for a development agenda shaped through ordinary people’s voices in Turkey and highlights the future they dream for beyond the MDGs. The UN in Turkey is proud to have been a part of this process which has led to the voicing of both the concerns and dreams of the people of Turkey for their own future.


Kamal MALHOTRA
UN Resident Coordinator
Turkey

ACRONYMS

MDG	: Millennium Development Goals
UNCED	: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
WSSD	: World Summit on Sustainable Development
UN	: United Nations
UNICEF	: United Nations Children Fund
WHO	: World Health Organization
ILO	: International Labour Organization
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
R&D	: Research & Development
NGO	: Non-governmental Organization
SMS	: Short Message Service
CSO	: Civil Society Organization
FAO	: Food and Agriculture Organization
IOM	: International Organization for Migration
MCOF	: Migration Crisis Operational Framework
OEC	: Oregon Environmental Council
UNIDO	: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ECD	: Early Childhood Development
SAIS	: Social Assistance Information System
STI	: Sexual Transmitted Infections
LGBT	: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexuals
IT	: Information Technology
EU	: European Union
OECD	: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
TEPAV	: Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey
SME	: Small and Medium Enterprises
IMF	: International Monetary Fund
GMO	: Genetically Modified Organism
CBD	: Convention on Biological Diversity
CAN	: Climate Action Network
UNFCCC	: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GNP	: Gross National Product
TÜİK	: Turkish Statistical Institute
OCHA	: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
MP	: Member of Parliament
MoD	: Ministry of Development
HIV	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
UNFPA	: United Nations Population Fund



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
I. INTRODUCTION	13
II. METHODOLOGY.....	17
OVERALL METHODOLOGY and PROCESS	17
SPECIFIC METHODOLOGIES USED AT THEMATIC MEETINGS.....	20
III. WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING?	23
1. INEQUALITIES.....	25
2. HEALTH	43
3. EDUCATION	55
4. GROWTH and EMPLOYMENT	65
5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	81
6. FOOD SECURITY and NUTRITION	95
7. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	105
8. CONFLICT and FRAGILITY	117
9. POPULATION DYNAMICS	131
IV. ISSUES MOST PROMINENTLY RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATIONS	141
V. CONCLUSION.....	143

ANNEX 1: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS of the
RESPONDENTS of the ONLINE SURVEY in GRAPHICS

ANNEX 2: ISTANBUL DECLARATION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main purpose of this report is to contribute to the implementation of a people centred approach to development and to increasingly engage the peoples of the world since it is clear that development can only be achieved and sustained through participation of all societies and communities. Under the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations launched national consultations on the Post-2015 development agenda in 50 countries initially, which has now expanded to 86. Turkey was amongst the first 50 countries selected for this purpose.

The national consultations were intended to include the voices of the voiceless people and marginalized groups by allowing them to determine their own future by voicing their needs and aspirations for their lives and the years ahead. With a view to reaching out to these groups, consultation meetings were organized at different levels and through different channels. The United Nations System in Turkey agreed that the nine themes, namely inequalities, health, education, growth and employment, environmental sustainability, food security and nutrition, governance, conflict and fragility, and population

dynamics identified in the outcome document of the Rio+20 “The Future We Want” were all relevant to the country and added a tenth theme: “Early Childhood Development”. Leadership of each theme was entrusted to a UN agency in line with its respective mandate.

The consultation process was led by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in cooperation with the UNV National Coordinator recruited specifically to support the UN system in this endeavor. The Ministry of Development contributed to the process by supporting regional meetings through its Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).

The consultations included discussions at three levels -regional, thematic and online- on the ten themes mentioned above. The thematic discussions were held during the months of October and November 2012, in Ankara, the capital, whereby salient points were captured by rapporteurs and compiled into reports under each theme to be further shared online for inputs from a wider audience.

Regional consultative meetings were held in four provinces, namely



Istanbul, Gaziantep, Kutahya and Kastamonu covering 11 provinces where the participants prioritized the developmental needs and concerns of their respective regions.

In parallel to face-to-face/foot level meetings, an online survey was posted on the Post-2015 Development Agenda web-page, with frequency analyses of the answers to the survey questions about Turkey's most important developmental challenges and how these should be overcome or resolved. The result of this analysis is incorporated under the relevant thematic areas in this report.

In addition, surveys were also distributed in four youth group and five university meetings, and the responses summarized in the report. The aspirations of the people of Turkey under the ten themes for the Post-2015 era have been translated into recommendations, which constitute the most crucial part of this report. The importance lies in the fact that this is what the people of Turkey want and this is what should be achieved.

Under the theme on inequalities, participants asked for full implementation of existing legal frameworks and social policies without discrimination, and revision of laws and development of policies to (i) encourage the participation of women, and youth in all spheres

of social life, including political and economic life, (ii) ensure more equal distribution of income, (iii) manage migration, (iv) improve the accessibility of people with disabilities to services and employment opportunities, (v) eradicate all kinds of violence against women, and (vi) ensure early childhood development for young children between 0-8 years of age.

On health, the participants expressed their aspirations as follows: (i) ensure "universal health coverage" with special attention to disadvantaged population groups including migrants; (ii) address social and environmental determinants of health and equity to ensure the achievements of gains in healthy life expectancy, (iii) tackle risk factors for non communicable diseases, (iv) expand user friendly reproductive health services for young people, (v) tailor health services for young people, women, and the elderly.

With respect to education, the participants recommended for (i) improving the quality of education, (ii) ensuring lifelong learning, (iii) ensuring 12-year compulsory education, (iv) making pre-school education compulsory, (v) development of evidence-based policies targeting equity based on disaggregated data, (vi) devising and implementation of legislation related to financing of schools.

The focus of the recommendations under the theme on growth and employment were decent and better employment opportunities for women and young people. In this context, the participants expressed their recommendations as follows: (i) increase the labour force participation of women by providing social care services by applying the principles of "purple economy/purple jobs", (ii) strengthen the connection between vocational education and employment, (iii) widen the social protection network, (iv) combat informality and develop registered sectors, (v) set up a reliable information network to monitor labour markets, (vi) develop a growth model that is human-centric, environmentally-friendly, sustainable and egalitarian.

The discussions under environmental sustainability concluded with recommendations such as (i) ensuring that policies for environmental sustainability are developed by pursuing and implementing a method that is based on the principles of governance, local participation, transparency, accountability, coordination and equality, (ii) creation and transfer of local knowledge with the direct participation of different sectors and disadvantaged groups, (iii) strengthening and disseminating incentives for environmental technologies, energy efficiency,

greenhouse gas emission reduction and renewable energy, (iv) developing indicators and creating a databank on environmental sustainability, (v) devising education and skills programmes on environmental sustainability, (vi) inclusion of socio-economic factors in environmental impact analysis and calculations, (vii) amendments in legislation to promote local governments' role in energy generation and the preservation of the historical and cultural texture, and (viii) devising and developing communication strategies to improve participation, raise awareness and access to information and enhance consultation mechanisms.

The participants agreed on the following recommendations under the food security and nutrition theme: (i) bringing the production and consumption of agricultural and food products into harmony with universal consumer rights principles and ensuring their accessibility to all, (ii) ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, overcoming the deficiencies in agricultural regulations, and increasing the attractiveness of rural areas, (iii) development and implementation of regional and rural development policies and innovative approaches, (iv) ensuring the right to water and food and its fair distribution, (v) improvement of the database infrastructure for



agricultural policies and (v) the provision of agricultural education and publication services.

Under the theme of governance, participants listed their recommendations as (i) strengthening civil society, supporting disadvantaged groups and empowering the impartial media, (ii) adoption of the principle of civil society participation in decision-making processes, (iii) amendment of laws on elections and political parties to ensure the identification of MPs through a primary election, (iv) strengthening local governance mechanisms such as city councils and ensuring their financial autonomy, (v) ensuring public access to information on the wealth of politicians, public agencies and private sector executives, (vi) promoting accountability, not only upward but also horizontal and downward, through various means including the publication and documentation of the financial contributions made by the government to political parties during election periods, and (vii) ensuring an equitable representation of all sectors of society in decision making processes, particularly in Parliament.

The recommendations of the participants related to issues of conflict and fragility included (i) ensuring equal development and access to social services by all, (ii)

developing policies for integration of internally displaced persons including seasonal and migrant workers (iii) making regulations respond better to the needs of labour migrants particularly those with irregular status, (iv) ensuring access of refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and all disadvantaged groups to fundamental rights, (v) development of disaster preparedness and response plans, (vi) enactment of the Law on Equality and Anti-Discrimination, (vii) development of policies necessary for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals to benefit from equal rights, and (viii) development of vocational education programmes for migrants.

With respect to population dynamics, the participants identified their recommendations for this theme as (i) tackling the sui generis problems and potentials of every age group individually especially for youth and elderly people, (ii) generating urban data systems for analyzing urban dynamics, (iii) using of demographic data for evidence-based planning in social and economic policies , (iv) development of special policies targeting women, young people, children and migrants on all areas, (v) development of policies to prevent child/early marriages and early pregnancies, (vi) formulation of policies responding to all aspects of ageing and (vii) ensuring universal

access to sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services.

It is worth noting that the inequalities and poverty theme was at the forefront of discussions during the consultations. These issues were also regarded as the underlying causes of deficiencies and challenges across

all the thematic areas. However, if one had to identify the number one issue raised during all these discussions it would surely be gender equality. This is validated by the fact that MDG 3 is one of the two goals (the other being MDG 7) that Turkey will fail to achieve by the target year of 2015.



Özlem Soydan, Instagram Campaign

I. INTRODUCTION

Why ? What ? How ?

With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaching their targeted deadline of 2015, the discussions over the Post-2015 Development Agenda have commenced.

The outcome document of the Rio+20, "The Future We Want" progressed these discussions and accelerated the process. The UN Development Group, with a view to facilitating an all-inclusive consultation process, initially selected 50 countries to inspire the debate on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The UN Secretary-General has taken on the responsibility to lead the discussions on the official front while national consultations constitute the unofficial segment of the process. Both official and unofficial outcomes of the consultations will form the basis of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In addition, the outcomes of discussions with academia, media, private sector, the civil society, and decision makers on various positions such as politicians, government officials, and parliamentarians at global and regional level will feed into the collective output. In order to allow easier and a wider contribution to the



process an online web portal was set up to enhance open interaction and information exchange building on the UN Secretary-General's 'The Future We Want' campaign.

Through the national consultations, the UN Development Group aimed to stimulate an inclusive debate on the post 2015 development agenda by providing an analytical base, inputs and ideas that build a shared global vision for the Future We Want, with clear recommendations for governments and civil society and a broad range of other stakeholders. It aims to amplify the poor and other marginalized groups in formal negotiations processes as well as to influence intergovernmental processes so that they can align with the aspirations of civil society for a Post-2015 agenda.

Discussions and consultative meetings relating to the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda were also held in Turkey. The Regional Meeting on MDGs and the Global Human Development Forum both held in İstanbul in 2010 and 2012 respectively became the initial platforms of the process for these discussions. Further, the preparatory process of the National Development Plan and the National Consultations held in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference provided significant substantive input. Subsequent to the Rio+20 Conference, the National Consultation Process per se on the Post-2015 Development Agenda conducted in Turkey focused

on the nine development themes as identified in the Rio+20 Conference. The leadership for conducting these thematic discussions was entrusted to UN agencies with clear mandates vis-a-vis the thematic areas.

The themes of the discussions and lead roles of UN agencies in line with their respective mandates or interest were:

- 1) Inequality (all areas including gender) – UNICEF (UN Children's Fund) and UNWomen.
- 2) Health - WHO (World Health Organization)
- 3) Education - UNICEF (UN Children's Fund)
- 4) Growth and Employment - ILO (International Labour Organization)
- 5) Environmental Sustainability - UNDP (UN Development Program)
- 6) Food Security and Nutrition - FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)
- 7) Governance - UNDP (UN Development Program)
- 8) Conflict and Fragility - IOM (International Organization for Migration)
- 9) Population Dynamics - UNFPA (UN Population Fund)

In addition to the nine themes above consultations on Early Childhood Development were also a part of the national debate.



National Consultations Process: University Meetings, Muğla University

II.

METHODOLOGY

Overall Methodology and Process

Within the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, national consultations have been conducted under ten thematic areas – namely, Inequality, Health, Education, Early Child Development, Growth and Employment, Environmental Sustainability, Food Security and Nutrition, Governance, Conflict and Vulnerability and Population Dynamics. The consultation meetings were led by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator with the full-time engagement of a UNV National Coordinator recruited for this purpose. In addition to the resident agencies, a non-resident agency, UNWomen, also contributed to the process. A group of consultants were contracted to draft the report.

A work-plan for the process was prepared by the Office of the Resident Coordinator and shared with the UN system for approval. The work-plan envisaged meetings, surveys including an online survey, a specific web-page allowing online contributions and discussions and



use of social media for an effective and participatory consultation process. With a view to engaging people from all walks of life and profiles an Instagram campaign was launched to demonstrate/visualize the perceptions of the segments of society who preferred to express themselves differently.

Meetings

The consultation meetings were organized at two different levels/tiers: thematic meetings and regional meetings. The thematic meetings were held in Ankara and regional consultation meetings were held in Istanbul, Kastamonu, Kutahya and Gaziantep. The Ministry of Development provided support to the UN system in Turkey in the organization of the regional meetings by mobilizing their regional development agencies, thus enabling the discussions to cover 11 provinces. Representatives of the public and private sector, universities and NGOs participated in the thematic and regional meetings.

The nine thematic meetings were held in Ankara. The meeting on Early Childhood Development was held in Istanbul. The discussions under each theme were not limited to one single meeting; depending on the guidance of leading agencies, separate meetings were organized on sub-topics under some of the themes.

At the regional meetings the issues raised at the thematic meetings were presented and the participants were asked to comment on their

perceptions and priorities.

Information about the process of national consultations for the Post-2015 development agenda, discussion topics, and probing questions for discussions were distributed to the participants prior to the thematic and regional meetings.

In addition; meetings with youth, who constitute 50% of the population, were held in universities, 4 youth summits and at the UN Youth for Habitat platform. Youth were consulted in five universities, namely Mugla, Ege, Karadeniz Teknik, Denizli and Bilkent, through face-to-face meetings. They were also invited to fill in a survey distributed to them.

The leading UN agencies mandated for thematic areas recorded the notes of the thematic meetings and shared the main points and discussions of these meetings with consultants in the form of national consultation meeting reports. On the basis of these reports; agencies also drafted a three-page issue paper on each of the themes; and these papers were posted on the webpage specifically designed for Post-2015 development agenda. The results of the discussions held at the regional and university meetings were also recorded and shared with wider audiences electronically for possible comments.

Surveys

An "online survey" was conducted on the Post-2015 web-page. The frequency analyses of the answers to the questions of the survey relating



Presentation of the Outcome of the Consultation Process, Validation Meeting, Ankara 2013

to Turkey's most important problems and objectives in ten thematic areas have been added to the report under the relevant thematic areas. In order to share information about the respondents, the information on the socio-demographic profile is given in the Annex 1 of this report.

A survey called "Touch Your Future" was opened to the public on the Democratic Governance Web Platform at the web address <http://www.geleceginizedokunun.com>. The survey was devised to ascertain the perceptions and aspirations of citizens relating to the thematic area of Governance. People were encouraged to send their opinions through SMS via the national SMS Governance Platform. Another method used to encourage participation was through a mobile application platform for iPhone and Android phones. The results of the survey were analysed qualitatively

and quantitatively and the assessment is incorporated in the report.

The responses to the questionnaires distributed at the university meetings, youth summit and at the validation meeting were also assessed and added to this report.

Social Media

The use of the social media in advocating the national consultations proved to be instrumental in engaging the general public. The Twitter and Facebook accounts of the UN system and UN agencies were used effectively.

The Instagram campaign on the Post-2015 development agenda received as many as 500 photographs taken by people wishing to express themselves differently. These photographs were exhibited during consultation meetings and are used in the report.



Specific Methodologies Used at Thematic Meetings

Inequalities

Meetings on five sub-topics namely- poverty, gender, education, health and disability- were conducted under the theme on inequalities. The methodology used in the gender sub-group meeting differed from the rest. Break-up groups were used to generate in-depth discussions. The results of the break-up groups were presented at the plenary.

Environmental Sustainability

The environmental sustainability thematic meeting was conducted in the form of four group sessions. The participants in this meeting followed a “gallery walk” method, with a “Group Working Table” set up for each of the probing questions. Each group visited each Group Working

Table and added/posted its views at each table until all the groups had visited all the tables.

Food Security and Nutrition

In addition to the plenary discussions, a 16-question-survey was administered in order for the participants to express their individual opinions in writing.

Governance

The consultation meeting was conducted in the form of focus groups. The discussions were held both in plenary and in break-up groups.

Conflict and Fragility

Two separate meetings were held, one in Istanbul and the other in Ankara.



Participants visiting “Instagram Campaign” Exhibition, Validation Meeting Ankara 2013



National Consultation Process, Discussions on Environmental Sustainability, Ankara

Consultation in Numbers

The process aimed to reach as many people as possible from all segments of society through foot-level meetings, internet, interviews, social media and SMS applications.

As a result, 1,260 stakeholders participated in thematic, regional meetings, and youth summits. 556 participants were CSO representatives, 442 were youth representatives, 164 academicians and 98 were representatives of governmental organizations. Out of 1,260 participants 745 were women and 515 were men.

1,300 university/college students participated in five university meetings where 55 academicians were also present.

1,656 people were reached through the online survey created for the Post-2015 development agenda as a whole.

5,103 participants were reached through “Touch Your Future” survey created specifically for Democratic Governance thematic areas.

More than 20 people from rural areas participated in the street interviews.



What People
Are Saying

*Erdem Findikoğlu,
Instagram Campaign*



Meral Çatak, Instagram Campaign

1. INEQUALITIES

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

National consultations and regional meetings for the thematic group on inequalities were conducted under five sub-themes: poverty and inequalities; gender; the disabled; education, and health. This part of the report describes in detail the debates and tendencies which emerged from the meetings on poverty and inequalities, gender and people with disabilities. Although education and health were also intensively debated within the context of inequalities, these issues are only briefly mentioned here, as they are addressed in detail in the chapters on education and health.

The cross cutting issue of Early Childhood Development – which spans health, social protection and education – has been discussed as part of the Inequalities theme. The reason why ECD is included in Inequalities, is because global research has identified ECD as a powerful equalizer. Social inequities in early life contribute to inequities in health later on, through ECD and educational attainment. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to do poorly in school and subsequently as adults are more likely to have lower incomes and higher fertility rates, and be less empowered to provide good health, nutrition, and stimulation to their own children, thus



Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Kadir Topbaş: “Everything is based on education. If we want peace in the world, if we want a sustainable environment and future, if we desire resources to be used efficiently, it all depends on education. Each of these depends on the values we teach to human beings who are in their early childhood. If we can achieve this, the problem will be solved anyway.”

Inequalities

contributing to the inter-generational transmission of disadvantage. The seeds of adult gender inequity are also sown in early childhood. Gender socialization and gender biases in the early years of life have impacts on child development, particularly among girls. Reducing health inequalities within a generation requires a new way of thinking about child development. An approach is needed that embraces a more comprehensive understanding of the development of young children, including not just physical survival but also social/emotional and language/cognitive development.

The importance of this issue of inequalities was emphasized at national and regional meetings as well as at the Habitat Youth Consultation Meeting. Additionally, the importance of inequalities and their connections with other areas were emphasized by the stakeholders who participated in the

Validation Meeting March 7, 2013. At all these meetings, it was stated that Turkey has taken significant steps in combating poverty and inequalities, but that there are also some emerging challenges.

At the national consultation meeting, the first debate dwelt on the need for a common understanding of the definition of poverty. This resulted in a definition of poverty. The definition of poverty and the methods used for calculating it are of special importance for understanding the new realities in this field. As is known, poverty may be calculated differently depending on the criteria used. According to one criterion, those living with an income lower than the minimum wage in a family of four people are considered to be poor. Another approach based on a study conducted by the Turkish Employment Agency in September 2012 defines those with an income of less than

949.14 Turkish liras, for a family of four people, as hungry and places those with an income of less than 3,091 Turkish liras below the poverty threshold.

The concept was debated within the framework of this common definition. It was emphasized that poverty is a relative notion. Definitions of income poverty and food poverty were considered, but it was also noted that poverty is not limited to the dimensions of income and food, but also encapsulates problems and shortcomings in social security, shelter, education and access to health.

One of the most important points emphasized at the national consultation meetings and regional meetings was Turkey’s achievement in combating extreme poverty. In particular, social policies implemented for eradicating food poverty are cited as an important achievement in combating poverty. Also important is the observation that significant progress was achieved on income poverty.

The increase in the budget for social assistance and services and the steps taken in the field of institutionalization for a more effective use of this budget allocation were among the most important developments referred to at the meeting. The importance of social policies for the welfare of society is increasingly acknowledged by various political and social actors. This point is also very important for developing and implementing social policies. Both the employees of public institutions working at different levels in the field of social policy as well as those working at local administrations and in civil society organizations are now more knowledgeable, experienced and

conscious. The positive contribution of the education programs offered by universities to the employees of public institutions, the private sector and civil society was emphasized.

Increased social awareness about disadvantaged groups and the experiences, problems and social exclusion that these groups face has also been regarded as an achievement. Another positive development noted is the implementation of programmes aiming to empower women in social life. Women’s human rights training, social empowerment training, vocational courses, programs aiming to increase women’s participation in the labour force, workshops and training programs were all found noteworthy in this respect. Increased schooling of girls was considered to be another important achievement. In particular, a greater number of campaigns to combat violence against women and the implementation of new social policy instruments in this area were seen as positive. Increased multi-disciplinary cooperation, increased solidarity in the women’s movement and the adoption of a multidisciplinary approach for addressing gender problems were also welcomed. The positive impact of women’s cooperation on legislation whether at international or national level, was emphasized in particular. In addition to this, attention was drawn to the positive impact of gender equality training programs for civil servants and especially programs designed for men.

The development of social policies designed for segments of population with special needs was also cited as an achievement. Moreover, social policies implemented in the areas of health



Inequalities

and education are perceived to be direct and effective steps for combating poverty. The achievements reached in these areas are discussed in detail in the chapters on health and education. Briefly, the implementation of universal health insurance, significant increases in schooling rates and a reduction in the gap in access to education between boys and girls were seen as important achievements for combating inequalities in the area of education.

Other developments mentioned in the area of social policy included the bringing together of institutions working in the area of social assistance and social services under the roof of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSS). This development is important for more effective and equitable delivery of social assistance through institutional coordination. However, the participants were concerned that the issues of women may be ignored in such an umbrella organization. The creation of the SAIS (Social Assistance Information System) is considered important both for more effective identification of the needy and for establishing communications among institutions providing services to beneficiaries.

The relationship between combating poverty and unemployment is well known. Improvements in indicators of participation in the labour force and employment include in particular, the progress in the rates of women's participation in the labour force – even if quite limited - and the downward trend in unemployment rates - even though, again, limited, as well as the

increased number of start-ups. The fact that improvements, however modest, have been registered in these areas at a time of crisis in the world economy, and especially in European countries, has been cited as a sign of economic sustainability in Turkey. The participants also agreed that there is a need for redistributive income policies.

Two further issues discussed at all of the meetings were the questions of which groups are living in poverty, or face the risk of poverty, and of what kinds of inequalities prevail in society. At the national consultation meeting, it was emphasized that the number of children living in urban or rural areas and working in agriculture and/or the informal sector is among the factors that increase the risk of poverty. On the other hand, it is known that having a different ethnic identity, belonging to a single-parent family and being a member of a disadvantaged group which faces discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender or any form of disability all lead to different forms of discrimination, resulting in unequal access to resources. In this connection, the participants agreed that the main point to be emphasized is that a wide range of groups are experiencing poverty, and that these groups often face various forms of discrimination - on grounds of gender, family structure and position in working life etc. - at the same time.

Efforts to combat different forms of discrimination in Turkey are perceived to have picked up speed, partly thanks to social policies but some emerging

challenges are seen to persist. At the consultation meetings and it was underlined that disadvantaged groups in particular continue to experience severe difficulties, and that poverty is still an important problem in Turkey.

Attention was drawn in particular to the discrimination and discriminatory practices faced by women, youth and the people with disabilities. One of the most outstanding recommendations which emerged from the national consultation meetings was for stronger sanctions in the implementation of laws intended to combat the discrimination faced by these groups.

Inequalities on grounds of gender, in particular, are one of the difficult areas mentioned at all meetings.

At the national consultation meeting on the theme of gender, at which five different working groups exchanged opinions, women were said to have limited access to all economic, social and political rights from birth onwards. Representatives of women's organizations highlighted some negative points, such as impediments to women's participation in the economic, social and political spheres. Moreover, social prejudices and preconceptions were seen to constitute another cause of discrimination and inequalities faced by girls, women and people with different sexual orientation. The inequality and discrimination faced by girls was also

emphasized and the need to combat discrimination faced by girls effectively was underlined.

Another point emphasized – was child poverty which prevent children from accessing equal opportunities right from the beginning of their lives, and confine them to the cycle of poverty.

The Istanbul consultation meeting on Early Childhood Development confirmed that in order to ensure equality and sustainable development within the scope of the MDGs and afterwards, it is of great importance to develop integrated policies and programmes for Early Childhood Development (ages 0-8). At this meeting, an "Istanbul Declaration" was adopted expressing the need to attach priority to maintaining and furthering the existing achievements in ECD at various levels - from international & national institutions to local authorities and non-governmental organizations – and calling on all stakeholders to cooperate in this respect. For Istanbul Declaration please refer to Annex II.

Since ECD is a multi-directional and interdisciplinary concept, it requires an integrated approach. It has been determined that ECD is directly associated with four out of the nine thematic issues addressed during the Post-2015 consultation process in Turkey. These are equality, gender, education and health.



2. Priorities for 2015 and Beyond

Inequalities

While addressing the issues which must be prioritised in the Post-2015 period in order to combat social inequalities, it has been emphasized that some shortcomings and problems persist in the area of social policies, despite the progress achieved in this area. Priorities for the Post-2015 period should be defined to address

these shortcomings and problems. The priorities raised at all meetings may be summed up as below:

Eliminating gender-based inequalities

Eliminating gender-based inequalities faced by women was identified as one of the most important priority areas.



Discussions on Gender Inequalities UN House, Ankara

I WANT PEACE ABOVE ALL. LET US LIVE JOYOUSLY WITH OUR CHILDREN.

A young women, participants in street interviews, Ankara

It is emphasized that the gender-based inequalities faced by women and girls constitute barriers to their access to fundamental human rights. Women in Turkey face structural obstacles in accessing education, employment and - as a result - financial resources, food, social security, health and social services. Girls and women face, at different stages of their lives, different forms of discrimination and inequality such as physical, economic, social and sexual. They become subject to sexual violence, and are forced to early and unwanted marriages. Because they are not considered as individuals they become subject to inequitable distribution of labour within the family. These problems are compounded by structural factors arising from regional disparities, and by the use of references to tradition and religion in a way that consolidates inequality and discrimination against women.

All these factors cause women to be seriously disadvantaged in social

life. Another problem which was mentioned by a CSO representative at the national consultation meeting, and confirmed by another representative, is the tendency for women sometimes to internalize their disadvantaged position and unequal practices. All these unequal and discriminatory practices prevent women from participating in decision-making processes and from being viewed as legitimate stakeholders.

Gender-based social discrimination was also emphasized at the Habitat Youth Consultation Meeting. The young people have stated that young women, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transvestites, as well as HIV positive people faced inequalities based on prejudices and discrimination in access to sexual health and other health services. Young people also stressed that the practice of compulsory military service creates inequality for young men. In response to the question "Who faces inequality and discrimination?", young people

IN 2015, I WANT A WORLD WHERE WOMEN ARE NOT KILLED, MURDERS OF WOMEN ARE NOT NORMALIZED AND WOMEN HAVE REPRESENTATION IN DAILY LIFE AND POLITICS.

A university student, participants in street interviews, Ankara

Inequalities

“ IN ORDER TO REALIZE EFFECTIVE MONITORING, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ALL DECISION - MAKING PROCESS.

A. representative from a women's NGO, Ankara

said that everyone other than Turkish, Muslim, Sunni and health faces inequality and discrimination. Moreover, young people point that “marital status” constitutes another serious aspect of the inequalities which they face in their everyday life. Among the examples given were the discriminatory treatment experienced by single women when entering and leaving student dormitories and the difficulties single men face when renting a flat or workplace.

At the regional meeting in Gaziantep, it was observed that women and people with disabilities face the greatest discrimination and inequality. The low level of women's participation in employment, in particular, has been regarded as a special cause of the discrimination and inequality which they face. It was cited by the participants that the rate of women's participation in employment in Gaziantep stands at only 7%, and 96% of these women are informal workers in the agricultural sector.

Inequality between women and men was also mentioned at another

regional meeting that took place in Istanbul. The social roles assigned to women were seen as the root cause. Also emphasized were the obstacles to the women's use of their reproductive rights, the insufficiency of shelters and social protection units for women who are subjected to violence.

In Kastamonu, too, the need to combat inequality between women and men was considered a priority area. The unequal practices faced by female students in access to education, the low level of women's participation in employment and the fact that women are not equal with men even in the public sector were all underlined. These were seen to be consequences of confining the role of women to maternity, family matters and domestic tasks.

In summary, the need to combat inequality between women and men has been identified as a priority area. Special urgency is attached to women's participation in economic and social life, and to effectively combating violence against women.

“WOMEN SHOULD BE PREVENTED FROM HOUSE VISITING BECAUSE THEY SEE AND LEARN DIFFERENT THINGS FROM FRIENDS. WHEN THEY COME HOME THEY DEMAND THE SAME FROM THEIR HUSBANDS. IF THE HUSBANDS FAIL TO PROVIDE THEM THAN THEY ASK FOR A DIVORCE. THAT IS WHY THE RATE OF DIVORCE IS RISING.”

A Tradesman from Kutahya

Developing policies for children

Effectively fighting the inequalities faced by children was treated as a priority area at all meetings. The participants attached priority to the need for legal measures to guarantee the protection of children. In addition, at the regional consultation meeting that took place in Istanbul, children's right to life and child poverty were named as priorities. The insecurity of schools, and of preschools in particular, poses a life-threatening situation. Moreover, physical and social inequalities in public space are viewed as a factor which aggravates child poverty. The Istanbul consultations on ECD mentioned the following priorities for the

national and global levels: ensure funded, inclusive and integrated ECD policies and promotive and protective programs for all young children 0-8 years, especially the most disadvantaged, by 2020; ensure national and sub-national data is routinely collected to monitor trends and disparities in ECD and generate evidence-based knowledge to inform budgeting and policies; support the expansion of a global alliance with a portal and clearinghouse for the generation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and for research development and networking; create an innovative global funding mechanism for early childhood development that will support the above at all levels, with an increased role for local government.



Early Childhood Development Meeting, İstanbul



National Consultations Process, Meeting on Disabilities

DISABILITIES MUST INDEED BE MORE VISIBLE IN THE POST 2015 AGENDA.

A participant of the national consultation meeting on disabilities

Persons with Disabilities

The inequitable and discriminatory practices faced by the people with disabilities in access to services as a result of shortcomings in education, employment and urban infrastructure should be treated as a priority area. Action to raise social awareness on this issue also constitutes a priority area. The participants felt that the targets for the disabled in the Post-2015 agenda need to be made more visible and encompassing. It was also proposed to mainstream all questions relating to the disabled in all of the targets of the Post-2015 agenda. Discussions also pointed up the importance of developing disabled-specific indicators for achieving these targets.

Effective and sustainable fight against poverty

It has been argued that measures such as “projects” or “assistance” actually constitute a barrier to addressing the main factors at the root of poverty, and that such approaches are therefore far from being an effective and sustainable way for combating it.

Even though some important steps have been taken to develop social policies, it is widely felt that the income gap between those in the bottom and top income brackets has not yet declined.

Especially at the Habitat Youth Meeting, young people cited inequality and poverty as one of the most important problem areas. The young people

stated that difficulties in accessing health and education services due to poverty exacerbate social inequality.

In Gaziantep, it was emphasized that the increased gap between the social strata has led to an increase in inequality in the city. Accordingly, it was considered that the need to prevent this ever-increasing disparity among the social strata should be taken up as a priority area.

Overcoming the lack of data and information

Actions relating to certain social groups are known to suffer from quantitative and qualitative shortcomings. The lack of data and information on disadvantaged groups is an impediment to the realistic and effective development of policies. Overcoming the lack of data on disadvantaged groups, in particular, is a priority area that will contribute to the development of more realistic and effective social policies.

Employment

The need for an employment policy that offers decent job opportunities and combats all forms of discrimination in working life emerged as a priority area. Employment opportunities with social security and regular income were observed to be very limited, and attention was drawn to the inadequate decline in informal employment. Besides limited employment opportunities and limited opportunities for decent jobs, the sustainability of the actions taken to encourage the employment of disadvantaged groups was called into question. The lack of an effective fight against discriminatory practices in recruiting was noted as a negative point at national consultation meetings. At thematic and regional meetings, it was emphasized that barriers to participation of women, the people with disabilities and the young in employment persisted, and argued that this issue must be addressed as a priority.

46.7% of the respondents who participated in the online survey conducted within the scope of this exercise believe that eliminating violence against women is the most important area that must be prioritised in order to make progress on women’s rights and equality between women and men. This is followed by increasing participation in decision-making mechanisms with 26.7%, economic empowerment with 21.1% and improving national planning and budgeting with 5.5%.

8.1% of the respondents stated that the most important issue that Turkey should address on the way to development in the Post-2015 period is the elimination of all barriers to girls’ schooling. 5.2% of the respondents stated that the most important issue is combating regional development disparities.

This is followed by preventing child abuse with 3.8%, combating poverty with 3.6%, combating unemployment with 2.6%, achieving decent jobs and working conditions for all with 2.5%, empowerment of women with 2.4%, improving the situation of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups with 1.5% and preventing child marriages with 0.6%.



At the national consultation meeting on the theme of gender, one of the said barriers was identified as the assumption that the care of children, persons with disabilities and the elderly is the responsibility of women. This situation causes women to become further disadvantaged when it comes to employment.

Achieving equality in access to education

It was underlined that the problems in access to education have exacerbated inequalities in this area. At all meetings, it was underscored that gender and regional disparities may lead to inequalities in access to education. Moreover, at the Habitat Youth Consultation Meeting, it was observed that the lack of provision for the right to education in the mother tongue and unequal education policies have exacerbated inequalities in the area of education.

Economic growth and planned regional development

This priority area emerges in particular from regional consultation meetings. At the regional consultation meeting that took place in Gaziantep, it was underlined that the growth in exports and economic growth in general should feed into the development and life of the city. The failure to convert economic growth into social development was regarded as another factor which causes inequality. In Kütahya, the need for a planned approach to promote industrialization, employment and growth was discussed as a priority area.

Effective migration policies

Migration emerged as a priority area especially during regional consultation meetings and at the Validation Meeting. The fact that Kastamonu and Kütahya have a negative migration balance while

“SOCIAL BUDGET SHOULD BE INCREASED AND THE SCOPE OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SHOULD BE EXPANDED IF WE WOULD LIKE TO OVERCOME INEQUALITIES. STATES SHOULD PROVIDE FULL PROTECTIVE AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO ALL THEIR CITIZENS. A CITIZEN SHOULD NOT ASK FOR COAL OR FUEL FOR HER/HIS CHILD, THE STATE SHOULD FIND THIS CHILD THROUGH RESEARCH AND PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES”

CSO representative



Social Inequalities Poverty Working Group Meeting, Ankara

Istanbul constantly has a positive migration balance is perceived as a serious problem. Migration to Istanbul from other regions has been cited as the most important factor increasing inequality in Istanbul. The same phenomenon is also said to increase disparity between different neighbourhoods in Istanbul. At the regional meeting in Kastamonu, the negative migration balance was seen as the most important problem. The participants said that this is caused by limited employment opportunities, lack of investments, inadequate investment planning, lack of qualified employees and the lack of a systematic and a holistic approach in addressing the problems of the city. The negative migration balance of the city was

regarded as a social phenomenon leading to inequality and poverty. The failure of Kütahya to urbanize fully and its inability to create a centre of attraction were also viewed as major causes of outward migration. It was felt that the immediate implementation of an effective migration policy that takes into account the specific situation of the city should be treated as a priority area. The participants pointed to the development of employment and economic growth policies to curb negative migration as one of the most important priority areas.

3. Recommendations for the post –2015 Development Agenda

Inequalities

- Equal access to social services, participation of all segments of society in economic, social and political life and elimination of barriers to the social and political representation of all segments of the population
- Development of specific laws and social policies to combat inequalities and discrimination-based practices in society
- More effective struggle against discrimination in employment
- Promotion of women's participation in social and economic life and decision-making mechanisms
- Adoption of all possible legislative, institutional and practical measures to put an end to all forms of violence against women
- Increase in social awareness about the people with disabilities and development of effective practices to address the difficulties due caused by poor urban infrastructure is;
- Further action to improve; access of people with disabilities to education services and employment;
- Mainstreaming all the issues relating to people with disabilities into the other goals of the Post-2015 Agenda, and use of pertinent and specific indicators in defining and assessing these goals
- Increase in information programs and awareness programmes;
- Increase in studies that address discrimination;
- Amendment of legislation to prevent discrimination;
- Participation of disadvantaged groups in monitoring progress on targets for combating discrimination and inequalities;
- Adoption of funded, inclusive and integrated ECD policies and implementation of supportive and protective programs for all young children 0-8 years, especially the most disadvantaged, by 2020
- Routine collection of data at national and sub-national levels to monitor trends and disparities in ECD and generate evidence-based knowledge to inform budgeting and policies
- Enhanced role for disadvantaged groups, and for young people in particular, in decision-making mechanisms;
- More effective, systematic and holistic organization of the economy in cities like Kütahya and Kastamonu which have a negative migration balance
- Implementation of employment and economic growth policies to curb outward migration, which is one of the most important problems of the cities which have a negative migration balance
- Implementation of economic policies designed to accelerate urbanization and create centres of attraction in these cities
- Investments, to be conducted on the

basis of a planned approach that takes in to account specific conditions into account

- Training of qualified people for the sectors in which they are needed
- Increase in investments in areas such as agriculture and livestock breeding, and promotion of natural agriculture
- Revision of all existing binding laws on discrimination in such a way as to include young people in particular
- Development and extension of social services for youth
- Implementation of practical steps to improve the rights of young women
- Referral of the women accommodated in shelters to rehabilitation centres
- Development of a Social Security system for young people encompassing youth employment
- Re-regulating the tax system and implementing incentive mechanisms for young professionals
- Supporting mechanisms designed to promote the participation of young people
- Support for young entrepreneurs

• Ensuring that the young entrepreneurs with in particular benefit from public loans

- Introducing regulations to allow mentally disabled children to pursue their education after the age of 14
- Abolishing the religious affiliation and sex fields in ID cards
- Developing social policies to allow all minorities and all groups facing social discrimination to access education and health services in their mother tongue
- Developing disarmament policies and shifting the armament budget to education and health

Among all these recommendations, one point that was found to be especially important for all the stakeholders is the need to promote the participation of all disadvantaged groups - and especially of the young and people with disabilities - in social and economic life and decision





ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

1. 26.5% of the respondents believe that Turkey will make progress in fighting poverty and inequality in income distribution in the Post-2015 period. 49.6% think that there will not be any progress on this issue while 23.3% say they have no opinion.
2. The percentage of the respondents to the online survey who think that Turkey's most important barrier to development is budget constraints is 9.1%, whereas 2.5% think that the most important barrier is the inadequacy of social assistance and services. 2.9% of the respondents, on the other hand, think that the global economic crisis is the most important barrier to Turkey's development.
3. 43.9% of the respondents agree with the statement that Turkey will make progress on women's rights and equality between women and men in the Post-2015 period, while 35.7% disagree. 19.8% have no opinion.
4. 43.2% of the respondents think that the barriers to the participation of the people with disabilities in the society will be eliminated in Turkey in the Post-2015 period. 29.8% disagree with this statement. 25.7% of the respondents say they have no opinion.
5. 14.3% of the respondents agree with the statement that sexual orientation rights in Turkey will be expanded. 62.5% do not agree. 18.3% have no opinion.
6. 32.5% of the respondents agree with the statement that Turkey will make progress on non-exclusion on grounds of religion, language and ethnicity in the Post-2015 period. 47.5% do not agree while 19.2% do not have an opinion.
7. 17.7% of the respondents agree with the statement that income distribution inequality in Turkey will be reduced in the Post-2015 period. 59.5% do not agree with this statement. 22.2% do not have an opinion.
8. 31.4% of the respondents agree with the statement that Turkey will make progress on fighting against unemployment in the Post-2015 period. 41.8% do not agree while 25.9% have no opinion.
9. 33.4% of the participants are aware of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. This varies by gender. While 36.2% of women are aware of these goals, the percentage drops to 30.5% among men. 22.7% of women agree with the statement "Post 2015, there will be improvements in the fight against poverty and inequality of income distribution in Turkey", but the ratio increases to 31.7% in men. Similarly, the statement "Post 2015, there will be improvements in women's rights and gender equality in Turkey", is agreed by 39.7% of women in contrast to 52.3% of men. When asked about priorities for improving women's rights and gender equality, 52.9% of women suggest stopping violence against women, 25.3% of women want to have more opportunities to participate in decision making mechanisms, and 17.2% think that economic

empowerment should be a priority. The percentages among men for the same questions are 48.2%, 22.8%, and 22.7%, respectively. These findings indicate that compared to men women perceive violence as a more important priority area, and having more opportunities in the decision-making process as more important than economic empowerment. While 14.8% of women agree with the statement "Post 2015, income inequality will be reduced in Turkey", the ratio is 21.9% for men. 31.2% of women believe that there will be an improvement in Turkey after 2015 in the sense that no segment of society will be marginalised due to religion, language or ethnic origin. The percentage of men agreeing with this statement increases to 42.1%.

The main conclusion of the consultations on inequality and poverty is that there is a need for an active fight against social factors that cause inequality and discrimination against girls and women, the disabled, the young and other disadvantaged social groups through social policies and awareness-raising actions. The transformation of mentalities and mind-sets for preventing prejudice and discriminatory practices against diverse groups in society will only be possible through effective social policies and increased social awareness. Ensuring economic development for all regions, reducing the huge gap between income

groups and developing social policies for ensuring equal opportunities for all at all stages of life have also been emphasized. Another key issue for combating poverty is the removal of barriers to access to basic social rights such as education and health. Guaranteeing the participation of all segments of the population in decision-making mechanisms and combating difficulties and barriers to the economic, social and political participation of all segments of the society are important in order for the disadvantaged groups to enjoy their rights to representation and to voice their own problems.

“THE PREJUDICES OF THE SOCIETY AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE NOT BEEN ELIMINATED. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE STILL REGARDED AS INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IN NEED OF PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE. THIS MENTALITY IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE BEFORE STRENGTHENING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

A Representative of an NGO representing people with disabilities,

2. HEALTH

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

Through the “Health Transformation Programme”, Turkey launched a very important change in the history of its health services. In the last decade, there have been noteworthy improvements in the provision of health services and public health with a noticeable impact on health indicators for the population. Health insurance has become more inclusive, and the Social Security Institution has taken important steps towards bringing the beneficiaries of the green card system closer to the facilities enjoyed by the population covered by other forms of social security. Health service provision has been extended and improved through infrastructure investments, new regulations on the procurement of medicine and medical equipment, and through the introduction of Family Medicine program. Family medicine was introduced nationwide in 2010. In 2011, the Ministry of Health undertook a major process of organisational restructuring including the creation of the Public Health Institution and other affiliated health Institutions.

When analyzing health services and health indicators, the changes that have been going on in recent years need to be accurately analysed. Turkey is rapidly urbanizing, and educational levels are consequently increasing. Significant improvements are also coming about as a result of economic stability. When assessing success in the area of health, it is useful to consider social, economic and demographic changes and to understand that some improvements are also linked to other factors. In analysing the Post-2015 period, attention will be paid to urbanization, on going changes in economic structure and levels of education, causes of mortality, non-communicable diseases and emerging health problems/risks will be included in health provision in Turkey.

One of the challenges on which all participants of the consultation meeting on health agreed is that some regional disparities in the provision of health services still exists. According to a number of studies, some inequalities relating to regional, urban-rural, sex and age variables have been identified, but the challenge is that these studies results remains as estimation. A representative from the health authority informed that the statistics department in their institution has been working to overcome this shortfall and a better monitoring system is being developed for the Post-2015 period.

Another point raised by a representative

of a national institution is about the on going shortage of health providers in Turkey. This shortage is still more important when regional disparities are considered. It remains an issues since it takes time to train health service providers while the population grows faster. This challenge must be considered as key when considering the rural-urban divide and eventual disparities, and action should be taken to increase the number of health service providers.

A point, especially raised by experts working in the field of women's health, is gender inequalities. According to these experts, although reducing maternal mortality rates is very important, further emphasis should be given to the relationship between the improvement in women's health - and ensuring their health gains - and the social status of women, including the creation of equal conditions for women in society. Although the deficiencies in this area are not under the direct responsibility of health service providers, their outcomes have an impact on health outputs.

A point which was raised by experts working in the field of migration is that Turkey due to its neighbouring countries with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and STIs, may be under risk. Considering the large influx of migrants, the high ratio level of the young population and the age of first marriage - which increasingly tend to be delayed due to longer years of education and career paths, its argued that importance



Thematic Meeting on Health, Ankara

must be attached to unprotected, sex STIs, reproductive and sexual health in general. However, this issue is not adequately addressed within the scope of existing services. As mentioned by an NGOs representative, effective action should be improved in the areas of education, advice and awareness on health for society and for the young in particular.

This shortcoming was also one of the important issues raised by young people themselves at the HABITAT Youth Workshop, where the limited user friendly health services for the young people – especially for reproductive and sexual health services - were

emphasized as possible causes of early pregnancy and maternal mortality. The high ratio of young people in the population (median age of population in Turkey's 30 by the end of 2012, by TURKSTAT) makes reproductive health a very important topic.

It is clear that significant progress has been achieved in reducing child mortality rates, especially due to massive investments on immunization services. However, according to the representatives of association working in the area of health, national production generic drugs and vaccine should be considered as areas worthy

of investment, and incentive programs should be implemented for initiatives to minimize foreign dependence in the area of medication and vaccinations.

Health service problems associated with migrants and migration are another challenging area, according to the representatives of experts working in the field of migration. Rural migration is continuing in Turkey even if it is slow, and Turkey is located in the middle of migration routes because of its geographical position. Migrants try to make their way to Europe by transiting through Turkey. These regular and irregular migrants may also take their children

with them. Migrants have various health problems that they may carry from their own regions or contract due to unhygienic conditions in the places where they might live. The access of these groups to health services should be considered a very important priority. This also holds for internal migration including seasonal agricultural workers that experience similar challenges. Health challenges and difficulties in including these groups in health service provision continue.

The answers given to the question “Will the awareness of young people on teenage health, sexual health and reproductive health be raised in Turkey in the Post-2015 period?”, which was asked in the online survey conducted in order to define the Post-2015 development agenda, speak for themselves. 36.2% of the respondents said “I don’t agree” or “I don’t agree at all”. When it is considered that 1,137 people who participated in the survey are young and educated people, they seem to be pessimistic about this issue. When those who neither agree nor disagree are included, the ratio of negative answers approaches 60%. This being the case, the need to act on youth sexual and reproductive health becomes evident.

2. Priorities for 2015 and Beyond



Maintaining and sustaining achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and moving them further

All participants collectively agreed in the consultation meeting on health on the need to safeguard and sustain the progress and the achievements made on the MDGs. Maintaining the existing level should be the first step. The efforts which resulted in the achievement in the field of maternal and child health should continue in the Post-2015 development era, and should be closely monitored to overcome possible shortcomings.

Ensuring Universal Health Coverage

All participants of the consultation meetings on health agreed that the health should be included in the Post-2015 development agenda under the over-arching umbrella leading to “universal health coverage” which combines two fundamental components: access to health services i.e prevention, promotion, treatment and rehabilitation; as well as the living conditions needed to achieve good health with financial protection that prevents ill health leading to poverty, while paying special attention to access for disadvantaged population groups including migrants. In other words, there is need to focus not only on health financing but also on health services including covering a wide

range of health challenges related to the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, mother and child health, and health systems. In addition, progress on all these priority areas will only be possible if important cross-cutting issues such as the social determinants of health and equity are also addressed at the same time, to ensure the achievements of gains in healthy life expectancy.

A strengthened, up-to-date health information system

All participants in the consultation meeting on health touched upon the need to strengthen the health Information System. Although the Ministry of Health, is currently making significant steps to an improved health information system, efforts need to continue to develop an information system to help define national priorities based on data disaggregated by socio-economic status, age, sex, region and the urban–rural divide. Strengthening the “information system” with up-to-date data collection components, based on evolving demographic and regional trends and civil and vital records, will be one of the most important objectives of the Post-2015 health agenda. Another objective should be the protection and safeguard of privacy at the highest possible level when using information. It may also be useful to identify and monitor selected qualitative health indicators at all stages and levels of

the provision of health services, and to integrate this approach in monitoring, assessment and planning exercises. In the Post-2015 period it will be crucial to incorporate understanding culture of attaching as much importance to qualitative as to quantitative indicator to monitor the provision of health services.

Eliminating inequalities, including for migrants

Eliminating inequalities arising from regional, socio-economic, gender and age differences, including for migrants, in access to services should be adopted as a very important objective. To this end, disadvantaged groups should be well defined, the possible conditions creating inequality should be accurately identified and appropriate and effective policies and services should be developed to address them. Up-to-date and reliable health information systems will make it possible to achieve this goal. Health governance with whole of government and whole of society approach, involving civil society

and individual participation should be maintained and strengthened to achieve this objective.

Sustaining health systems and medical products:

Turkey should ensure to develop a system in which individuals' own expenditures for health would not significantly increase. Production of equivalent and generic drugs also should be considered as areas worthy of investment, and incentive programs should be implemented for initiatives to minimize foreign dependence in the area of medication and vaccinations. In this context, the most important issue for the Post-2015 period is to guarantee sustainability in both areas.

Balancing health coverage packages

Cost-effectiveness studies need to be conducted regularly to design basic benefit packages so that they include emerging health problems and new priorities. The basic benefit packages in

their current form are considered to be broad, but this may lead to challenges and consequences for health outcomes if long-term financial sustainability is not taken into consideration. In defining the basic benefit package, information on the needs of patients, the experience of physicians and the latest developments in medicine should be brought together and balanced in the most optimum manner.

Improving lifestyle to reduce risk factors of non-communicable diseases

Non-communicable diseases - cancers, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, diabetes, respiratory diseases, and mental disorders - constitute a major burden and the main cause of death in Turkey. Non-communicable diseases will be the most important public health priorities in the Post-2015 period. There will be need for focusing on early diagnosis and preventive health services by taking into consideration the impact of early diagnosis in these diseases on both health outcomes and cost implications. It will be therefore necessary to develop low-cost, accessible and cost-effective practices to reduce leading risk factors, improving lifestyles through "behavioural changes". A multidisciplinary approach and cooperation and establishing effective partnerships should be strengthened to achieve this objective.

The reduction of risk factors for non-communicable disease should be supported by information and public education programs. Education and awareness-raising should start in childhood and should be addressed within a holistic approach including life-

long formal and informal learning and the use of the media. Health literacy should be supported by curricular or non-curricular programs targeting all age groups.

Increasing self-consciousness of healthy lifestyles

Increased individual participation in health services and the emphasis on the responsibility of individuals should also be considered important areas. Making necessary arrangements for the participation of individuals and keeping participation channels open should be considered the responsibility of the state. For this reason, in order to help improve individuals' responsibility for their own health, general "health literacy" improvement programs need to be developed. Education and awareness-raising should be taken up within a holistic approach including formal and informal learning starting from childhood and making use of the media. All these efforts should be designed to develop "self-consciousness" for enjoying the right to health. Health governance with whole of government and whole of society approach, involving civil society and individual participation should be maintained and strengthened to achieve this objective.

Expanding geographical accessibility and integrating holistic family planning services into family medicine practices

Rapid urbanization is continuing in Turkey. However, about 25% of the population continues to live in rural areas. Alongside the family medicine

In response to the question "What do you think Turkey's development priorities should be in the Post-2015 period?" asked in the online survey conducted within the scope of this study, "Meeting the health needs of all segments equally" emerged as the third most important issue.

About half of the 1,137 respondents (45.3%) agreed with the statement "In the Post-2015 period, there will be greater opportunities for equal and balanced access to health services in Turkey". This outcome may be interpreted as a sign of satisfaction with the structural changes in health services rather than as a reflection of satisfaction with policies or conviction that these will succeed in reducing inequalities.

system developed by the “Health Transformation Programme”, the ongoing shortage of health providers in Turkey remains a challenge while the population grows faster. This challenge is still more important when possible urban–rural disparities are considered. For this reason, the family medicine system should continue to be expanded in such a way as to ensure that it takes into consideration the basic health requirements of the rural population.

Integrating local experiences into health service provision and health awareness

Health service provision has been centralized even though Turkey has more than 75 million inhabitants. The representative of metropolitan municipality said that it would be useful to consider the possible contribution which local administrations, civil society organizations and municipalities could make to health awareness and access to health services for the most remote areas of the population. For this reason, it may be useful to design policies for the Post-2015 period that are more sensitive to local conditions. In addition, best practices at local level should be valued and integrated into the planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the health system. Strong partnerships among the public sector, civil society, the private sector and universities can help to bring about behavioral change by keeping society informed, raising

its awareness and encouraging public participation.

Paying special attention to the young and the elderly in line with demographic trends

Turkey’s demographic transition is well under way. It shifted from a pattern of high birth and mortality rates to one of low birth rate and mortality rates. This transition has two demographic implications in terms of health. The first is the large population of young adults and the second is the tendency for the elderly population to increase.

Given the large population of young people, reproductive health will continue to be important for Turkey in the Post-2015 period. On the other hand, early marriage and young pregnancies, as well as maternal mortalities, continue to be significant issues for mothers’ and women’s health. Awareness-raising on HIV should be extended in such a way as to protect women, mothers and children. Other risk groups should also be targeted. Moreover, as pointed out by an expert working in the field of migration voluntary counselling centres need to be made available widely and accessible to all people. This will require effective training for staff members, assurance of privacy and other measures to encourage people to have tests. The integration of such services into preventive health services - and ensuring young women’s access to these services - are very important.



ACCORDING TO A PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSULTATION MEETING ON HEALTH, “IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT WHAT DEFINES HEALTH IS THE ECONOMY, UNEMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, ACCOMMODATION AND CARE”.

A Representative of an NGO representing people with disabilities,

As mentioned at the Habitat Youth Workshop, the issue of unemployed young people needs to be addressed, and they should be granted access to health services whether or not they have social security.

Similarly, it should be born in mind that the population is increasingly ageing. The elderly too should be taken into account in terms of the sustainability of health services and finances. For planning purposes, it would be useful to consider the ongoing/potential changes in family structure resulting from the increase in the elderly population, as well as from any increase in women’s employment or their willingness to work.

Enhancing the public health perspective to prevent injuries

Traffic accidents and violence should also be considered as directly relevant to public health, and related services should be integrated into preventive efforts. The participants identified Traffic accidents, which constitute one of the most important causes of mortality for the young - and especially for young males, and

violence against women as priority issues. The development of a culture that sees women as equal individuals should be considered directly related to women’s health. The skills and knowledge of health practitioners in this area should be improved and programs developed accordingly.

Addressing the determinants of health

Turkey is taking an approach which considers public health as the basis of development. Health should not be isolated from its other social aspects and should be planned and priorities defined with due regard for the infra-structural conditions which define health. One should pay attention to the bigger picture of the determinants of health to ensure that social, environmental determinants of health and equity are also addressed, in the achievements of gains in healthy life expectancy

Integrating migration issues into health service provision

As a transit country and destination for external and irregular migration, Turkey accommodates a large



number of people who do not have appropriate status. The access of these groups to individual and public health services should be taken up as an important issue in the Post-2015 period.

Health services in the Post-2015 period should be built on the principles

of the human rights-based approach, “universality”, “accessibility” and “scope and sustainability”. Ensuring equal and accessible health services for all should be adopted as a fundamental objective within the scope of a holistic approach that includes physical, social and psychological health integrity.

3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Maintain the progress made under MDGs and sustain the existing achievements through monitoring to overcome possible shortcomings.
- Health should be included in the Post-2015 development agenda under the over-arching umbrella of “universal health coverage”. In other words, there is a need to focus not only on health financing but also on health services including covering a wide range of health challenges in areas like the burden of communicable and non-communicable disease, maternal and child health, and health systems.
- In addition, progress on all these priority areas will only be possible if important cross-cutting issues such as social and environmental determinants of health and equity are addressed, to ensure the achievements of gains in healthy life expectancy.
- Behavioural changes to develop healthy lifestyles should be supported. Affordable and accessible practices should be developed to reduce risk factors. General health literacy and awareness raising programmes should be strengthened.
- User friendly health services designed for young people especially for reproductive health services should be expanded. User friendly health services, including for reproductive health should be designed for young people.
- Long-term planning should be made for affordable health services packages.
- Health services should be designed to address the needs of the different age groups of the population with improved access for the young, the elderly, and women



3.

EDUCATION

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

The first point that needs to be underlined about education is the fact that it intersects with all the other themes, and that it constitutes a priority area the importance of which has been confirmed from various perspectives at national consultation meetings held in various thematic areas.

On aggregate, the view that emerged from the thematic and regional meetings on the theme of education is that Turkey has made significant progress on the way to achieving the MDGs but that there remain some priority areas that need to be addressed urgently. It was underlined that the outcomes in the area of education should be assessed with the limitations of the methods used in mind. A wide range of people from the public and private sectors and civil society were invited to the national consultation meeting that took place in Ankara, but the majority of the participants turned out to be from the National Education Ministry

and public institutions. This means that the opinions of the public sector representatives are predominant in the outcomes of the meeting.

Participants at this meeting emphasized, in general, the quantitative developments Turkey has achieved in its education system. The four most important milestones in the area of education in Turkey can be summarized as: (1) a quantitative increase in schooling rates; (2) an improvement in girls' participation in education; (3) progress achieved in the area of early childhood education, and (4) achievements in favour of children with special needs as well as for poor and disadvantaged children.

However, some participants argued that the quantitative developments in the field of education have left major structural problems in the education system intact. From this point of view, the most important problems in Turkey's education system are quality and equality. It is argued that the quality of education, as well as ensuring equal access to services, should be addressed immediately and placed at the centre of the Post-2015 development agenda.

For instance, although primary school schooling rates have reached 98%, there are still many children who cannot pursue their education for various reasons. Most of these are children from poor families, girls, children of families in migratory /

temporary seasonal work, children who themselves work in migratory/temporary seasonal jobs, students with special needs, and disadvantaged children like the Roma. It is underlined that high schooling rates are not adequate per se and that non-attendance and dropping out are significant problems.

Regional and gender inequalities in participation and access to education are outstanding problems. Another important problem is illiteracy, especially among adult women. Moreover, although gender parity has largely been achieved at the primary school level, similar progress has not been made at the other levels of education. Girls' enrolment in secondary education falls as low as 20–30% in provinces such as Van, Muş and Bitlis.

Problems in access to education, the lower participation of girls in all levels of education beyond basic education, geographical disparities in the quality of education, inequalities arising from the diversity of types of school, problems of teacher training, the incomplete coverage of early childhood education, social inequalities caused by gaps in access to preschool and the inadequacy of investments in education have all been cited as important quality-related problems that have an impact on the outputs of education in Turkey in terms of equality.

Attention was also drawn to problems with education policies and institutional capacity building for education. An issue emphasized especially by civil society organizations is the need for a participatory approach in designing, implementing and inspecting education policies and programs. It is broadly acknowledged that policy changes that have occurred recently point to the need for a transparent and participatory culture. It would have a positive impact if the groups

most affected by education policies, especially children and their parents, but also civil society, academia and the private sector, were involved in all policy processes. Also mentioned at the meetings was the role of an effective data collection system in designing data-based and evidence-based policies. In this respect, a need has been identified to define new indicators to measure quality and to collect data for this purpose.

2. Priorities for 2015 and Beyond

Investments in teachers

Teachers and teacher training seems to be the most important issue for quality education in Turkey. Inadequate in-service and pre-service training means that teachers do not develop the necessary practical experience. Another point raised, especially at the Habitat Youth Consultation Meeting, was the appointment of teachers and the problems faced by teachers working on a contractual basis.

Updating the secondary school curriculum and investments in vocational education

At the national and regional consultation meetings, it was emphasized that secondary education has been ignored in recent years.

Participants pointed to the need to update the existing secondary school curriculum in accordance with the needs of the labour market in a knowledge-based economy. It is broadly agreed that the existing curriculum is heavily academic and falls short of meeting the needs of young people. At the Habitat Youth Consultation Meeting, it was emphasized that education as such did not support the youth employment in particular. In addition, it is believed that introducing compulsory secondary education as of the 2012 – 2013 school year will deepen the problem of dropping out at high school level.

Another important point mentioned especially at the regional consultation

meetings was the failure of vocational education to meet the demands of the current labour market. In addition, the links between vocational education and the universities were observed to be inadequate, especially at local level, and that young people who have received vocational education have difficulty in following university education. Addressing these difficulties has been cited as an important priority.

Assigning priority to early childhood education

The expansion of early childhood education and pre-school – which play a key role in eliminating social inequalities – is seen as an urgent need. Regional and socio-economic inequalities have a negative impact on access to preschool, and there is need to increase investment, promotion and support for preschool.

Effective struggle against inequalities in the education system

According to an opinion broadly shared at the regional consultation meetings, where inequalities in education emerged as a major priority, there is a need to assess the impact of migration on inequalities in education. It was argued that increasing the level of education of the children of families engaged in season migratory work - and of children themselves working as seasonal workers - would also have a positive impact on the quality of education in the places to which they migrate.

The multitude of different types of schools and the lack of equal access for different socio-economic segments is seen as exacerbating the problem of inequality in the education system. This is perceived to be one of the factors which deepens inequalities and foments polarization in society. It is emphasized that private schools, in particular, make inequality more pronounced and lead to inequality of opportunities in education. The low scores of Turkey in international assessments such as the PISA tests needs to be interpreted in this context.

Taking steps to overcome infrastructure problems in education

Problems with infrastructure in education were also raised at the meetings. Attention was drawn to the drawbacks of practices such as education in two shifts and merged classrooms, as well as the need for extra classrooms arising from recent policies. Problems of infrastructure were emphasized at regional consultation meetings, where the high number of students per classroom was described as an important problem area. There was a general consensus on the need for schools to have appropriate space and equipment to be able to carry out cultural, artistic and sports events. Finally, the participants in the Habitat Youth Consultation Meeting stated that many schools are lagging behind in terms of information technologies and computer facilities.

Institutional capacity building in education

From the perspective of regional and socio-economic inequalities, it is held that existing indicators and nationwide statistics designed for assessing progress are not adequate for understanding existing inequalities and monitoring disadvantaged groups. In this respect, it is argued that data needs to be more detailed, more disaggregated and collected more regularly so that progress can be assessed and a more detailed analysis of inequalities undertaken with a view to generating effective solutions. Meanwhile, priority should be attached to sharing existing

data with experts, so that they can conduct various analyses. It was also strongly emphasized that quantitative indicators are not sufficient to assessing progress and analyse the current situation in education. Therefore, indicators need to be developed to monitor the quality of education and learning outcomes. The inadequacy of the state's follow-up mechanism for compulsory education and the lack of legal sanctions have also been identified as problems relating to institutional capacity. Lastly, one of the most important problem areas mentioned, especially at the Habitat Youth Consultation Meeting, is the rapid change in education policies and the lack of a long-term perspective.

3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- There is need for an effective struggle against quality and equality problems in the education system, instead of a purely quantitative approach:
 - To this end, in addition to quantitative targets and indicators, ways should be found for measuring the training level and qualifications of teachers, the curriculum, early childhood education and learning outcomes.
 - Learning-based indicators should be developed and implemented to measure the quality of education and to monitor the quality of teachers and physical spaces.
- Gender equality should be strengthened not only in basic education but at all levels of education.
 - Within the framework of the principle of equality in education, effective mechanisms should be developed to reach - as early as possible - those segments of society which have the highest risk of inability to access education:
 - Education services should be taken up in coordination with other basic

services, in particular, with health and social assistance. Steps should be taken to ensure that disadvantaged families and children and families and children with special needs benefit equally from services.

- Adequate importance should be attached to guidance and psychological counselling in efforts to reach out to disadvantaged children and families and to identify and eliminate the problems which they face at schools; cooperation among families, teachers, managers, psychological counsellors and guidance teachers should be promoted.
- Child development should be taken up within a holistic approach and effective policies should be developed in the area of early childhood education, which is the most important factor in eradicating inequality in education:
- The scope of preschool education should be enlarged and it should be made accessible for all children, especially disadvantaged children.
- Preschool education should be made available at younger ages (age-group 0 – 3).
- A variety of models for early childhood education should be articulated and made widely available.
- Trainers and teachers in the area of early childhood education and preschool should be trained in accordance with these principles.
- Early childhood/early learning indicators should be developed and

indicators should be used to detect learning problems at an early stage.

- Adequate investments should be made in teachers, who are the most important factor in education, and an objective should be defined to train better equipped and qualified teacher:
- The practice/training period in in-service training should be used more efficiently, and candidate teachers should be given the opportunity, as far as possible, to gain practical experience at schools of different types and conditions.
- Mechanisms should be developed to improve the effectiveness of cooperation between school and faculty in teacher training.
- Financial and other incentives for teachers should be improved and support should be made available so that they can be effective in their profession.
- An effective data collection mechanism should be created to monitor teachers' development and professional performance.
- Adequate regulations should be made concerning private schools, which consolidate inequalities in education in the current system. Arrangements should be made so that the private sector can contribute to education in a way which helps to eliminate existing inequalities.
- It should be ensured that private schools help meet the existing need for schools.

- The corporate responsibility of the private sector should be highlighted. The private sector should be encouraged to open schools in socio-economically disadvantaged regions and positive practices should be developed such as waiving fees for a certain number of students from disadvantaged segments of society.
- Due importance should be attached to secondary education, and the secondary school curriculum should be updated in accordance with the needs of students:
- Although secondary education is also available in Turkey through the open high school system, priority should be given to formal secondary education.
- Arrangements should be made to ensure that students not only of secondary education but of all levels of education develop life skills that go beyond the academic curriculum.
- A vocational counselling system capable of having a positive impact on employment among women and young people and, more generally, for increasing the scope and content of services of this kind should be developed.
- Students' digital skills should be developed through the improvement of IT infrastructure at schools across the country.
- Importance should be attached to foreign language learning at schools, and the quality of foreign language learning should be improved.
- Financial resources need to be made available if the new policy of 12-year compulsory education is to

be implemented effectively; children and the youth should take part in education for as long as possible.

- An effective strategy should be developed for lifelong learning, which is increasingly gaining importance across the world; education should be learning-oriented.
- Steps should be taken to build institutional capacity in the field of education:
- A long-term and coherent approach should be developed and policies should be designed with a long-term vision.
- Mechanisms should be developed to ensure flexibility in meeting education needs, in order to be most responsive to the developments in the world.
- A better disaggregated and detailed data collection system should be designed so to be able to assess the progress achieved in education more accurately and to produce effective solutions for issues that arise.
- Data-based and data analysis-based decision- and policy-making should be ensured by sharing data with all stakeholders in a transparent and open manner.
- Education policies and governance processes should be made more participatory and legislative arrangements should be made to allow the participation of the whole of society - and especially of the parents and children who are most directly affected by the policies.
- The potential contribution of private schools, civil society, foundations and academia should be taken into





I COULD NOT GO TO SCHOOL, I WANT GIRLS OF MY AGE TO GO TO SCHOOL, STAY IN SCHOOL AND ATTAIN HIGH LEVELS.

An 18 years old supermarket employee, street interviews, Ankara

Education

account, and their participation in all policies should be ensured.

- As another important component of the participatory approach, transparent mechanisms should be developed in order for the problems in the area of education to be monitored not only by the Ministry but by the whole of society.

- Education plans should be articulated on the basis of labour market needs, population trends and

development aims within a holistic and long term approach.

- For more effective and efficient international cooperation, the goals for the Post-2015 period should be defined in accordance with international goals and standards such as the objectives of Education for All and the EU 2020 strategy.

- New regulations on the financing of schools should be developed with priority.

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

The questions on the theme of education asked in the public online survey in parallel with the consultation meetings on the Post-2015 Development Agenda produced the following responses:

1. In response to the question “What are the most important barriers to Turkey’s development?”, 34.5% of the respondents pointed to the “insufficiency of education” as the “most important” barrier and 27.2% said that this was an “important” barrier. This confirms that education constitutes one of the major issues on Turkey’s development agenda.

2. About 30% of the respondents “agree” or “definitely agree” with the statement “Equal opportunities in education will be ensured and the quality of education will be enhanced in Turkey in the Post-2015 period, while 45% “do not agree” or “do not agree at all”. This result shows that the problems of quality and equality in education in Turkey are perceived to have become too significant to be solved in the short term.

Education



4.

GROWTH and EMPLOYMENT

Tuğçe Togay, Instagram Campaign

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

One of the important parameter of the Post-2015 development agenda was assessed under the heading of “growth and employment.” The global economy has been going through a severe and persistent economic crisis. This crisis, which is the second biggest crisis after the experience of 1930, may be qualified as a “new generation” crisis resulted in universal negative growth. The global economies are going through a period of universal negative growth. The main factor determining this crisis is “financial capital.” The industrial sector, which has the capacity to generate good jobs for working life across the world, has been shrinking due to the surge in technology and global competition, and the services and financial sectors are growing instead. The preponderance of the financial sector leads to reduced investments and to a pattern of making more money out of money. The global mobility of financial capital reduces employment on the one hand and leads to vulnerable economic

structures on the other. Meanwhile, economic policies globally continue to be “capital-oriented/focused”, as they have been over the last 40 years. The control of inflation has taken on a central position in the quest for macro-stability. This general framework results in policies which constantly erode labour in order to compete with the global capital. All these policies and practices have led to a decrease in the share of paid labour in the national income, increasing poverty among working people, more flexible labour and increasing unemployment. In these circumstances, it is important to grasp clearly what is understood by growth and employment, why there is desire for growth, and what is meant by employment. The competitive circumstances created by these policies and practices may make it difficult to generate decent jobs. It is therefore of vital importance to reflect upon the possible interpretations and to develop policies in this direction.

These observations made at the global level provide important insights for understanding Turkey. Moreover, Turkey needs to address quite serious problems originating from its own structure at a time when global circumstances at such a time when problems become more complicated. The ongoing rural exodus, the lack of significant change in the industrial sector, the growing services sector, the failure of economic growth to generate employment and the high proportion of young population of working age in the population as a result of the

demographic transition process, very low levels of women’s participation in the workforce and the presence of an extensive informal economy need to be added to this picture. While trying to compete globally and maintain growth under these circumstances, Turkey is basing the conditions for its competitiveness on labour, opting for employer-centred measures such as decreasing the cost of labour, abolishing severance pay, shifting to a regional minimum wage, weakening job security, facilitating dismissals, encouraging flexible employment and increasing working hours.

At the same time, the continuing rural-urban migration coupled with the increase in the number of people wishing to join the paid labour market are helping to turn economic growth and employment into one of Turkey’s most important problems. The increase in the urban labour force arising from rural-urban migration has led to growth with low wages while adding to the problems of the young. The low rate of women’s employment compounded by the underlying gender bias in society, has become Turkey’s most important problem. Since 2000, a type of growth has emerged that is not employment-friendly. Most of the increase in employment has been coming from services, agriculture, construction and the manufacturing sector. In industry, which has the highest capacity to create decent jobs, there has been no significant change. Constant technological progress makes labour



Meral Çatak,
Instagram Campaign

more productive but reduces its value at the same time. Reducing labour costs has become the most important issue, and some observers qualify Turkey as one of the countries with the most rigid labour markets – although the existence of an extensive informal economy complicates discussions of flexibility. Against this backdrop, employers believe that employment can be increased through more flexible working models and are calling for regulatory changes to make this possible. However, this

raises issues such as what is meant by flexible working models and how far flexibility is compatible with the principles of decent jobs.

On the basis of the interviews conducted, the most important problems of Turkey’s labour market can be summed up as: informality; the very low level of women’s employment; failure to involve the young population in employment, and the inequitable distribution of national income.

One of the most fundamental problems identified by the academics and representatives of workers and civil society is the question of what should be understood by “growth.” Growth does not simply mean economic growth and because growth has been approached as a purely economic matter since 2000 it led to growth without employment and a focus on labour cost-reducing measures. As a result, unemployment, poverty and low-paid, insecure and dangerous jobs have multiplied.

In assessing labour markets the first issue that comes up is low levels of women’s participants and inequality as its underlying cause. This structure creates inequalities both in access to employment and in staying in employment. Care services – child care, elderly care, disabled care – have a very important potential to facilitate women’s participation in the labour force. However, the existing care service policy confines women to the home and does not aim for





Sabih Solakoğlu, Instagram Campaign

equality.

The second issue to be addressed is the lack of commonly agreed definitions of concepts such as flexibility, rigidity and productivity. Rigidity and flexibility are analysed and assessed differently by employers and employees, and the proposed solutions vary accordingly. Labour representatives claim that the labour market, far from being rigid,

is excessively flexible due to extensive informality and a series of practices which tend to erode labour, reduce wages, facilitate dismissals and restrict the rights of organized workers through new regulations. According to employers' representatives, the representatives of labour misunderstand flexibility. In their view, flexibility needs to be understood as

“ENTREPRENEURSHIP, “INFORMATICS ENTREPRENEURSHIP” “TECHNOLOGY TRAININGS,” AND “VOLUNTEERISM AND LEADERSHIP” TRAININGS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ALLOW THE YOUTH TO FURTHER PARTICIPATE IN EMPLOYMENT AND IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES WHICH DETERMINES THE STRUCTURE OF EMPLOYMENT.

innovative methods which will support competitiveness in the labour market, and which will be developed for a modern labour force. They argue that flexibility does not denote “a flexibility with informality which abuses labour and which would create a segmented labour force.” However, in consideration of the technological progress and global competitiveness, the need for new employment forms is evident. “A rigidity- flexibility contrast” which ignores these conditions leads to informality. For this reason, flexibility needs to be discussed carefully.

According to labour representatives, the measures which are being taken against the ongoing global economic crisis do not seem sustainable. These measures are employer-oriented and their consequences speak for

themselves. For this reason, there is a need to devise employee-oriented policies. However, the fact that the strategy of subsistence on a single income is no longer functioning due to unemployment on one hand and decreasing real wages on the other causes this human-centred approach to be neglected. At the end of the day, important problems are created by policies such as reducing wages, and especially the minimum wage, facilitating dismissals – which reduces trade union security - and increasing working hours.

Technological changes and their negative impact on employment were cited as an important issue by a representative of a civil society organization. Technological developments reduce employment.

“A COMMON UNDERSTANDING AMONG OUR MEMBERS IS THAT CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK ARE WOMEN’S RESPONSIBILITIES. WHY CANNOT WE HAVE A NURSERY AND CHILD-CARE FACILITIES FOR A FACTORY THAT HAS 5000 MALE METAL WORKERS? THESE TYPE OF WORK SHOULD NOT BE ASSOCIATED ONLY WITH WOMEN.

An employee of a trade union, Ankara

Another challenge on which the participants in the consultation meeting broadly agreed was the prevalence of informal jobs and wages which are sensitive to unemployment. Increasing the working hours of existing employees instead of generating new employment, and increasing the retirement age, may turn out to be incorrect choices when Turkey's demographic structure is considered. The result has been a youth employment crisis. Increasing unemployment leads to lower wages on the one hand, and a higher number of informal workers on the other. According to labour representatives, the underlying reasons may be categorized under the two headings of jobless growth and policies for competing with global capital which target labour.

According to a representative of a think tank another important problem area is the relationship between employment and education. Turkey is classified among the countries which display the lowest level of human development in comparison with their level of economic development. The average length of education of the active population making up the labour force is very low (7.2 years). In addition, formal education and labour force needs are not well matched. This seems to be more visible in vocational education and in the need for intermediate staff. The first main underlying reason for this is the failure of the private sector to allocate sufficient resources for training, The second is the failure to make sound

projections about the futures of the various sectors. Education institutions find it hard to adapt to evolving conditions in the labour market and are not structured in a way that enables them to internalize new and current developments easily. The lack of the information that could be derived from a well-monitored labour force is an impediment to the flexibility of the education system. Skill improvement programs are not adequate. The initiatives taken by the private sector - especially for vocational training - are inadequate. This indifference is an important cause of the failure to devise effective apprenticeship programs.

Another issue on which there was broad agreement among the participants in the consultation meeting is the inadequacy of the existing information systems. Employment data, unemployment data and real wage calculations are based on different years and therefore do not constitute an up-to-date and reliable source. The units in charge of monitoring the labour force are inadequate and lack sufficient government/state support. This makes it difficult to access good, reliable, up-to-date labour force data to make labour market projections. Failure to make economic projections and inability to project needs for education, vocational training and intermediate staff in the light of these projections therefore constitute the root cause of the problems.

Resources allocated for research-development and innovation are limited and their effectiveness is

low. The main reason behind the problem is the policies pursued. The failure to incorporate the voice of local administrations into national employment policy creates a range of challenges related to working life and in particular, regional disparities. The regional meetings in Gaziantep, Kütahya and Kastamonu all indicated that one of the most important problems at local level is employment. There are limited capabilities for generating growth and employment at local level due to low levels of experience and capacity to monitor national and global markets. Cities seek growth but do not know how to achieve it. Traditional sectors at the local level usually prefer to employ workers with low levels of education and skills, and such a labour force makes it harder for traditional sectors to develop and to evolve into modern sectors. The lack of a planned approach and resources to promote industrialization, employment and growth are cited as the main factors

which result in outward migration. However, this situation results in labour force oversupply due to migration in other centres, as mentioned at the regional meeting in Istanbul.

Another problem area raised at the regional meetings in Antep, Kütahya and Kastamonu is the inadequacy of agricultural policies. Agriculture remains an informal sector that is seasonal, requires the unpaid labour of women and children and does not provide employment with social protection. The exploitation of labour in agriculture remains invisible due to the difficulty of including agriculture when designing employment policies. This also reduces agriculture's chances of becoming an attractive sector for employment. The young labour force in particular does not consider agriculture as a sector to work in, and this results in increased internal migration.

A narrow understanding of the concept of corporate social responsibility also

In response to the question "Which statement do you think best explains the link between the protection of the natural environment and economic growth in Turkey in the Post-2015 period?" asked in the online survey conducted as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda consultations, a significant majority of the respondents (42.4%) took the view that "there is no link between economic growth and protection of natural environment". This points to a failure to create awareness about the importance of green jobs.

emerges as an important problem. It is not widely appreciated that corporate responsibility does not only denote works of charity but also demands transparency and accountability. It is argued that neither large companies nor (Small and medium sized enterprises) are guided by ethical values with respect to their corporate responsibilities.

According to labour representatives, the high level of unemployment, the prevalence of informal work and the large young labour force cause employment to be perceived as the main priority in working life. This serves as a justification to ignore major issues such as environment-

friendly and decent employment and the development of a working culture open to citizens' participation. When employment is defined as the single objective, factors other than employment - and other dimensions of decent work such as participation, collective agreement guarantees, the struggle against informality and trade union rights are sacrificed. This sacrifice results in the exploitation of women and young people who have difficulty in participating in employment in the first place. The creation of "green jobs" should be taken up as an important issue for sustainable, environment-sensitive economic development.

2. Priorities for 2015 and beyond

Increase in women's employment

Increasing women's employment will be one of the most important priority areas of the Post-2015 period. It seems possible to use the social care sector and the concept of purple economy/purple jobs to reach this aim. Investments to be made in this field seem to have the capacity to generate a great number of jobs. To make this possible, decent employment needs to be defined as the main objective; gender equality and working-family life harmony need to be ensured. The "purple economy" may make a sustainable and equitable growth model possible. In this process, it will be

important to avoid instrumentalisation of participation in employment, to observe gender equality, to prevent vertical and horizontal segregation and to involve men in maternity and child care policies. Under the guidance of these main principles, women should be considered as a group requiring special policies and not as a disadvantaged group. The gender inequality which underlies the low level of women's employment needs to be eliminated.

Participation of young in employment

No policies have been developed for

the Turkish labour market in general and for youth in particular. A mind-set needs to be adopted which considers young people as equal citizens and empowers them in connection with the projects and policies to be developed. The policies need to take account of the diverse aspects of the young population in terms of gender, ethnic origin, education, disability, region and place of residence. Above all, young people need to be empowered by acknowledging that they have rights and that their views need to be taken into consideration. There is need to develop more holistic policies towards youth to replace the approach which focuses only on unemployment and related education/youth/transition-to-work issues. The youth employment crisis should be solved in consideration of the jobs generated by the public and private sector and the decency of these jobs. There is also a need to support youth entrepreneurship – as mentioned at the HABITAT National Youth Workshop - and to develop policies in the light of the wishes and expectations of young people. Young people need to be involved in future entrepreneurship policies and some support and incentive mechanisms should be created, bearing in mind that they are at the beginning of their

working lives. The long working hours of those already employed need to be seen in the context of the high youth unemployment, paving the way for health insurance programmes after a certain age. In this context, social security and social assistance need to be considered together – as things stand, social security can, in certain circumstances - and especially, in the context of youth employment - result in the cancellation of some social assistance, thereby encouraging informal employment. In addition to entrepreneurship, young people should be provided with informatics entrepreneurship, technology and leadership and volunteerism training to prepare them better for life.

Definition of flexibility

Agreement on a definition of flexibility should be an important objective for the Post-2015 period. While moving towards flexible working models in this connection, the experiences of the countries which have formerly implemented such models need to be analysed well to avoid the recurrence of similar mistakes. When one explores the Dutch experience, which turned out to be successful in this field, it seems that women's employment has increased more than ever, but that vertical and horizontal discrimination

WE SHOULD MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT. A HUNDRED THOUSAND OF UNIVERSITY-GRADUATES ARE UNEMPLOYED. WE EDUCATE THEM, THEY GRADUATE AND ALL WE PROMISE IS MINIMUM WAGE.

A researcher from a trade union, Ankara



and wage inequalities have multiplied. For this reason, flexibility should not be considered as a means for employing women and young people but as a set of practices which may be applied upon the demand of the wage earner within the life cycle. The connection between “secure employment” and “a decent job” needs to be emphasized to delimit the discussion of flexibility.

Combating unemployment

While promoting the employment of women and young people, there remains a need to combat unemployment in general, and to ensure that people are able to lead decent lives as a result of their labour.

Combating informality

Combating informality should be one of the most important objectives of economic and employment policies. However, while combating informality, its causes need to be well understood, and matched with proper solutions. There is a need to develop employment-generating practices on the one hand and effective inspection mechanisms on the other. Given that it is women who are most affected by informality, inspection mechanisms need to be accompanied

by incentive programmes for women’s employment. Support for premium contributions need to be increased to ensure that women are preferred instead of men, and the time limitation needs to be abolished. In addition to the positive discrimination which considers women as “accrued creditors,” the system needs to be convinced that it is “indebted to women”.

Need for impact analysis

Many actions are carried out in the name of human resources development in Turkey but these are not subjected to any impact analysis. International organizations in particular implement a great number of employment-generating projects without carrying out any impact analysis. There are few studies which seek to determine the impact of the projects or policies implemented on gender equality, informality, groups which are vulnerable to social exclusion, or the women and youth-friendliness of the employment generated. There is a need for quality monitoring and impact analysis studies to ensure the good and efficient use of resources. In this context, good governance mechanisms need to be

When we analyse to what extent people agree with the following statement asked in the online survey conducted as part of the consultation process, about half of the respondents (41.8%) stated that they disagreed with the statement “There will be progress on combating unemployment in Turkey in the Post-2015 period.” It is clear that there is a need both for decisive action to combat unemployment and for these actions to be perceived as convincing by public opinion.

set up and good practices should be made visible.

Role of the public sector

The private sector rejects public intervention when there is no crisis but calls for public support in times of crisis. In this sense, the public sector’s role in the economy needs to be correctly defined. Although this is a global issue, it is of special importance for Turkey. The private sector has not become truly “private” but seems to make employment generation contingent on incentive policy. It should be clarified whether the public sector will regain its investor role in the Post-2015 period or whether it will be a regulating and rule-setting mechanism as desired. In this context, the practice of subcontracting needs to be addressed, both in general and in the public sector in particular.

Connection between education and labour market

The recent growth in the number of higher education institutions has increased the opportunities for young people to extend their education. This means that in the coming 5-10 years there will be a significant increase in the numbers of young labour market entrants who have undergone extended periods of education and graduated from higher education. The current impression is that a policy of increased opportunities for higher education is being supported because it reduces unemployment and increases the average time spent in education in the country, yet there is a need for good planning when it comes to what to do with this large educated population groups. The impacts of education, and of long



National Consultation Process Thematic Meeting on Growth Employment, Ankara

“THE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE OF MALES IN OUR COUNTRY COINCIDES WITH EU AND THE WORLD AVERAGE. HOWEVER, NOT EVEN 30% OF OUR WOMEN ARE IN THE LABOUR FORCE.”

A manager from a public agency, national consultation meeting on growth and employment, Ankara

periods of education in particular, and the connections between education and decent jobs and related sectors, need to be analysed well. Labour force monitoring is needed not only for the educated labour force but for the labour force in general. Impact analysis of completed actions needs to be conducted and up-to-date, reliable labour force information systems need to be developed. Currently, estimations seem to be more influential than rational evaluations. A monitoring instrument needs to be developed which follows up, analyses and drafts long term plans on the global, national and local growth patterns.

Holistic Approach

The assessment of agriculture as a sector should be considered a vital issue. This would include the informal aspect of the sector and the lack of social protection and security for its employees. It would also pay attention to sustainable food safety, involving the employees in the social security system, and the measures which need to be taken in order for agriculture to generate a higher added value.

The impact of the rural exodus on the urban labour market needs to be carefully analysed and agriculture should be supported and monitored as a sector.

Development of a language of peace

The assessment of agriculture as a sector should be considered a vital issue. This would include the informal aspect of the sector and the lack of social protection and security for its employees. It would also pay attention to sustainable food safety, involving the employees in the social security system, and the measures which need to be taken in order for agriculture to generate a higher added value. The impact of the rural exodus on the urban labour market needs to be carefully analysed.

There is need to be receptive to new quests

A correct assessment needs to be made of the crises created by the capital-oriented policies which have been implemented for the last 40 years. Faced with constant economic crises, national economic policy-

“DEVELOPMENT IS NOT ONLY ECONOMIC; IT IS ALSO SOCIAL”

An academician from a public university, Ankara



makers have tried to pursue policies on the basis of mobile capital vs labour. These policies have led, in summary, to increased inequality, unemployment and an increase in the numbers of the working poor. For this reason, new economic policies should be developed and new systems and paradigms should be proposed as opposed to the practices which have consistently resulted in the wrong outcomes. It is imperative that a human-centred, environment-conscious, sustainable and equitable growth model be developed and that the human being be placed in the centre. To this end, it will be important to devise alternative approaches to resource generation such as “citizenship income,” “wealth tax” and “financial service tax.”

More attention should be paid to the potential contribution of the definition of decent jobs – encompassing wages, social protection and participation - to the creation of peace and the advancement of democracy.

Role of the public sector

The private sector rejects public intervention when there is no crisis but calls for public support in times of crisis. In this sense, the public sector’s role in the economy needs to be correctly defined. Although this is a global issue, it is of special importance for Turkey. The private sector has not become truly “private” but seems to make employment generation contingent on incentive policy. It should be clarified whether the public sector will regain its investor role in the Post-2015 period or whether it will be a regulating and rule-setting

mechanism as desired. In this context, the practice of subcontracting needs to be addressed, both in general and in the public sector in particular.

Connection between education and labour market

The recent growth in the number of higher education institutions has increased the opportunities for young people to extend their education. This means that in the coming 5-10 years there will be a significant increase in the numbers of young labour market entrants who have undergone extended periods of education and graduated from higher education. The current impression is that a policy of increased opportunities for higher education is being supported because it reduces unemployment and increases the average time spent in education in the country, yet there is a need for good planning when it comes to what to do with this large educated population groups. The impacts of education, and of long periods of education in particular, and the connections between education and decent jobs and related sectors, need to be analysed well. Labour force monitoring is needed not only for the educated labour force but for the labour force in general. Impact analysis of completed actions needs to be conducted and up-to-date, reliable labour force information systems need to be developed. Currently, estimations seem to be more influential than rational evaluations. A monitoring instrument needs to be developed which follows up, analyses and drafts long term plans on the global, national and

local growth patterns.

Holistic

The assessment of agriculture as a sector should be considered a vital issue. This would include the informal aspect of the sector and the lack of social protection and security for its employees. It would also pay attention to sustainable food safety, involving the employees in the social security system, and the measures which need to be taken in order for agriculture to generate a higher added value. The impact of the rural exodus on the urban labour market needs to be carefully analysed and agriculture should be supported and monitored as a sector.

Development of a language of peace

The assessment of agriculture as a sector should be considered a vital issue. This would include the informal aspect of the sector and the lack of social protection and security for its employees. It would also pay attention to sustainable food safety, involving the employees in the social security system, and the measures which need to be taken in order for agriculture to generate a higher added value. The impact of the rural exodus on the urban labour market needs to be carefully analysed.

There is need to be receptive to new quests:

A correct assessment needs to be made of the crises created by the capital-oriented policies which have been implemented for the last 40 years. Faced with constant economic crises, national economic policy-makers have tried to pursue policies on the basis of mobile capital vs labour. These policies have led, in summary, to increased inequality, unemployment and an increase in the numbers of the working poor. For this reason, new economic policies should be developed and new systems and paradigms should be proposed as opposed to the practices which have consistently resulted in the wrong outcomes. It is imperative that a human-centred, environment-conscious, sustainable and equitable growth model be developed and that the human being be placed in the centre. To this end, it will be important to devise alternative approaches to resource generation such as "citizenship income," "wealth tax" and "financial service tax."

More attention should be paid to the potential contribution of the definition of decent jobs – encompassing wages, social protection and participation - to the creation of peace and the advancement of democracy.

MAY THERE BE NO WORKER WITHOUT INSURANCE IN THE Post-2015 PERIOD

A taxi driver, street interviews, Ankara



3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Decent and better employment opportunities should be provided to women and young people.
- The labour force participation rates of women should be increased by providing social care services applied through the principles of "purple economy/purple jobs".
- A common understanding of the concept of "flexibility" needs to be developed on which the representatives of labour and capital can agree.
- Informality should be fought and registered sectors enlarged. Mechanisms need to be developed and enforced to protect women and youth, the groups most likely to be affected by anti-informality measures.
- A should be adapted change of paradigm to develop a human-centred, environment-conscious, sustainable and equitable growth model. The idea of global competitiveness based on labour force costs should be abandoned and replaced by a concept based on innovation.
- Public resources should be transferred to generate employment, and the public sector should share the responsibility of the private sector.
- Agriculture as a sector should be monitored and assessed, and appropriate policies should be developed.
- Local employment policies need to be developed further, and local experiences need to be incorporated into national plans, programmes and projects.
- The link between vocational training and employment needs to be strengthened and attention should be paid to entrepreneurship training for young people. In addition to entrepreneurship, training should be provided on informatics entrepreneurship, technology and volunteerism and leadership".
- The social protection network should be enlarged and the minimum wage re-calculated with due respect for the principle of decent jobs.
- A reliable and up-to-date information network needs to be developed for monitoring labour force markets. The factors which affect education-labour market links and the school-to-work transition need to be identified carefully on the basis of data.



Güney Tepe, Instagram Campaign

5.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

The following is based on the outcome of the observations made during the working group meeting for environmental sustainability held as part of the process of national consultation with respect, notably, to the relationship between environmental sustainability and development, the relevant policies, issues of governance and local participation, the question of sustainability in economic terms, the socio-economic thresholds and opportunities brought about by globalization, bio-diversity and climate conditions, and finally the headings under which the local, national and international policy proposals for the assurance of environmental sustainability were submitted .

The meaning of the concept of sustainable development is being lost and it is increasingly being turned into a hollow concept since the concepts of sustainable development, which

actually has a more qualitative and social content and sustainable growth, which encompasses more quantitative variables are confused with one another. Judging by an assessment of the environmental and social conditions and Turkey today, environmental ethics need to be taken into account in national policies. At this point, awareness needs to be raised of the fact that the concept of peace is the pre-condition for an effective environmental policy, and people need to be reminded that the problems of poverty and hunger are essentially environmental problems at the country.

The meaning of sustainability and its relationship with development affect not only current economic and social dynamics but also policies related to them, putting certain pressures on environmental sustainability. Turkey has a significant number of laws and regulations with important contents, but problems are experienced in their implementation. (Examples include the deficient environmental impact analysis studies at Bergama and for hydroelectric power plant projects).

Urbanization, accelerating under the impact of agricultural policies, constitutes one of the causes of environmental problems.

Indifference to principles such as the human-centred view of economic development and failure to facilitate the implementation of existing laws are also essential problems.

As a result of all this, the current understanding of economic development continues to harm natural resources. The concept of development should foreground the way in which different sectors of the society will be affected. Economic development policies generally ignore habitats. In these circumstances, the following needs have been emphasized: the need for more decision-making and monitoring mechanisms (Court of Environmental Rights), the need to ensure the effective participation and influence of the local inhabitants in planning processes (development and landscape plans), and the need for controlling mechanisms so that these processes become institutionalized (for example, localising and strengthening sustainable development commissions).

2. Priorities for 2015 and Beyond



Local scale for policies

The application area of environmental sustainability policies is the local scale. The aim should be to employ a method of policy-making that is based on the principles of participation, transparency, accountability, coordination and equality, and rooted in local knowledge and requirements. In creating and transferring the local knowledge required for the adoption of policies, the objective should be to ensure the direct participation of different sectors and of the disadvantaged groups in society (the young, the elderly, the persons with disabilities, women and others) within an academic and ethical framework, using scientific research methods, taking into account the socio-political dimension. The inadequacies in the participation of the civil society, individuals and/or organized/non-organised sectors of the society, especially in local decision-making processes, are contradictory to principles of good governance. The low level of participation for the "Draft Law on the Protection of the Environment" has been criticized by a platform formed by more than 100 non-governmental organizations. In addition, it was also added that the draft law envisaged the cancellation of the status of currently protected areas.

Bottom-up participatory approach

The view that priority needs to be

given to a bottom-up, participatory approach is justified on the grounds that public administration in Turkey has become overly centralized and has been unable to respond to local and regional ecological needs. Since the processes of policy-making and legislation are driven top-down (from centre to local), they do not reflect locally-available information and local needs. Local governments, which are important actors in this process, are not adequately involved in the decision-making processes. It is argued that discussion platforms should be created which involve municipal, district, village and neighbourhood administrations in decision-making processes as active participants, and that interaction and exchange of information with central government should be developed and enhanced.

Implementation of the Aarhus Convention

Ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention would also be an important step in terms of participation in decision-making processes, with including access to environmental information, environmental health, safety and justice. It is underlined that the continuing existence of political points of view that reject, participation and accountability as well as sustainability of the environment also render efforts for environmental sustainability difficult. The lack of political parties with concrete programme



Güney Tepe, Instagram Campaign

objectives based on a perspective of environmental sustainability is also perceived as a deficiency.

Need for local environmental action plans

Financial capacities need to be enhanced if local environmental management is to become effective. It is recommended that local governments should identify their targets and indicators in a report and subsequently publish an environmental and sustainability report that shows the extent to which they have achieved these objectives (local environmental action plans, etc.). These reports should then feed into the preparation of the municipality budget. All this would constitute an important step towards the wider implementation of environmental

sustainability goals. Local and regional administrators need to be trained on environmental sustainability, and their capacities (for example, on the practices that pose threats to the protection of sea and seashore ecosystems) enhanced. To this end, it is suggested that local governments cooperate with universities in planning and implementation.

Participation in international platforms

Furthermore, enhancing the participation of local governments in international platforms such as the Covenant of Mayors and in instruments such as the Espoo Convention will make sure that the local dimension of environmental damage is also tackled in the global framework.

Need for comprehensive indicators

The lack of comprehensive indicators established on the basis of shared objectives and guided by competent experts, concerning the right to environment and environmental sustainability makes the process of holistic and long-term policy-making more difficult. With respect to implementation, it is emphasized that the current laws and regulations are out-dated and that existing problems have been aggravated by local socio-economic conditions. For example, awareness of the multiplication of environmental impact by socio-economic factors in hydro-electric power plant investments has become part of the agenda only recently. It is suggested that alternative processes

and energy resources - such as wind and solar power and bio-fuel - should be adopted in a timely manner in place of energy policies involving natural gas and nuclear energy and based on supply instead of demand.

Need for new environmental impact assessment tools

According to the participants, efforts need to be stepped up to ensure the inclusion of new environmental impact assessment tools in the decision-making processes for national policies and investments (Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Impact Assessment, Comprehensive Needs/Options Analyses, etc.) and the transfer of knowledge and rationality to the local level in a transparent manner in decision-making processes.



Güney Tepe, Instagram Campaign



Incentives for renewable energy practices

Incentive mechanisms for renewable energy could involve the inclusion of environmental costs in calculations and prices. A different mechanism may be created and disseminated. The inadequacy of the supportive economic instruments, such as tax exemptions and incentives, for environment-friendly production also prevents the achievement of the desired progress in practice. When it comes to financing, the incentives for environmental technologies and renewable energy practices need to be strengthened and made more widely available. Activities in various sectors, and especially in the energy sector, are having increasingly negative effects on natural resources and forests.

Ecological footprint

At the Istanbul Regional Meeting, an NGO representative noted that the energy policies harmed environmental sustainability and stated that the energy sector was in the hands of certain monopolistic organizations. Additionally, the concept of ecological footprint has not been adopted and the related conditions have not been laid down for private sector activities. Negative natural resource management models still continue to be implemented with traditional approaches. For example, the effect of traditional approaches on the ecological footprint, as in the fishing sector, should be reviewed.

Private sector and environment-friendly products

In this context, mention was made of the ability to share good practices and lessons learned with the aid of information and communication technologies, the spread of environment-friendly products due to increasing competition, the contributions made by companies to the prevention of climate change, investments made by large companies in nature in response to increased competition among companies, the elevation of shared environmental standards, and access to EU funds and other global funds.

Negative effect of globalization on environmental sustainability

The concentration of capital flows, as a result of international pressure, into specific places and sectors, the lack of controls over this process, the orientation of agricultural and industrial manufacturing policies by international capital and the spread of a consumption-based lifestyle have resulted in the rapid growth of the ecological footprint, a reduction in the production of local goods and ecological and socio-economic problems. The oppression exerted by the markets of developed countries on developing countries (entry of products with GMOs into markets, deterioration of gene resources that are specific to Turkey and the resultant risk of the disappearance of local species like seeds) and the negative effect of neo-liberal energy policies on environmental sustainability (lobbyism

in the energy sector) rank among the primary indicators of dependence on foreign countries in terms of the environment. The negative effect of globalization on environmental sustainability is especially evident in the waste trade/transfers, which increase the emission of carbon dioxides that are effective in global climate change. Similarly, the rapid growth of our ecological footprint on account of globalization, the relationship between consumption and human beings, new lifestyles based on consumption, the lack of environmental ethics and the resulting problems are all striking examples of the repercussions of the weakening relationship between human beings and nature.

Eco-tourism and green business

Participants in the consultation process agreed that biological diversity including a high number of endemic species and the presence of other natural riches constitute advantages in terms of environmental sustainability. The existence of protected areas, natural forests, seas and wetlands also constitute the foundation of environmental sustainability. The aforementioned elements can only create employment that is in harmony with the natural balance and social structure through alternative sectors (eco-tourism, cultural tourism, green business potential, energy efficiency, renewable energy, etc.) that are rooted in renewable energy that supports local development and local technology.

Local production-consumption chains :

These regional riches can also be effective in assuring cooperation and reducing developmental imbalances among regions – but only if they are properly handled. A sustainable development strategy for local knowledge, awareness and sensitivity can be developed based on an assumption of the relationship between the land owned by the rural population and nature (especially using the existing examples of cooperatives set up by female entrepreneurs in the fishing sector). The local production-consumption chain needs to be set up by local governments to ensure the necessary rapprochement.

Natural disaster risk management strategies:

In the comments made at the validation meeting emphasis was placed on the issues of the planning and structuring of infrastructure and housing areas in a way that takes into account climate change and the risk of disasters such as droughts, floods and earthquakes, the coping strategies to be followed during and after crises, and the development of natural disaster risk management strategies.

Sustainable transport and waste management

Another point of consensus is the need to develop environment-friendly transport solutions tailored



to local needs and based on the principle of sustainable transport, and to include these in urban plans. Participants who argued that waste management should be addressed under a separate heading underlined the need to sort and recycle the waste.

Biodiversity and protection areas

Non-governmental organizations and academics who believe that the “Draft Law on the Protection of Nature” places the biological diversity inside and outside the protection areas under significant threat. For that reason, the participants called for the current draft law to be re drafted in a more participatory manner.

3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- National policies should place local and national human and environmental factors in the forefront of their global political and production-related activities.
- The current “Draft Law on the Protection of Nature”, which does not support international conventions including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), be re-drafted
- Efforts need to be made with the aims of ensuring that new and rising threats take their place on the agenda in a meaningful way, including creating awareness at different levels and among different institutions. Funds should be allocated to different social sectors for the design and implementation of education and

skills programs starting from the pre-school age group.

- A holistic and long-term vision based on the necessary participation criteria should be adopted for environmental sustainability. Strengthening the capacity of public agencies working in the fields of development and environmental sustainability would be beneficial.
- Public institutions and agencies with responsibilities for the environment need to act in unison and coordination. One recommendation is that the Department for Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Development be turned into a directorate general to assure the coordination of national R&D and scientific research. In this respect, the

integration of the work of the Ministry of Development into policies and planning can be cited as a precedent.

- Coordination mechanisms be developed, similar to the National Sustainability Development Commission, which would assure the representation of stakeholders such as NGOs, the private sector and universities.
- As stated in the Kastamonu Regional Meeting, regional development plans be based on the collaboration of governments and local administrations in the solution of environmental problems.
- Global and local social movements participate actively in national and international mechanisms, and the barriers in their way be lifted. Efforts to create a support group of producers and consumers for environmental sustainability also be bolstered.
- The creation of a databank containing all the data on projects implemented in the field of environmental sustainability is of great importance for the strengthening of principles such as transparency, participation and accountability in the decision-making processes of public agencies.
- The decisions taken at the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference

of the United Nations should have a determining role on future international and national policies, models, plans and strategies.

- The UN Convention on Biological Diversity should be taken as reference point in strengthening legislation to prevent the loss of biological diversity. First and foremost, new protection areas need to be proclaimed in order to prevent the loss of biological diversity.
- The link needs to be established with the consumption patterns of society on a global scale with respect to food security and safety policies and water management policies.
- Financial mechanisms need to be created, especially for efforts geared towards supporting investments in energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction within the framework of precautions against climate change.
- The legislation and control mechanisms need to be strengthened for the handling of the energy-ecosystem balance in the national energy policies of Turkey and the protection of its marine life resources.
- Measures should be taken and strategies developed as precautions against events including that may have



“THE GOVERNMENT IMPOSES A 600 TL SANCTION FOR FISH THAT HAS BEEN CAUGHT IN THE WRONG SEASON BUT DOES NOT APPLY ANY SANCTIONS FOR THOUSANDS OF FISH THAT DIE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS”

An NGO Representative

negative impacts on environmental sustainability including migration population movements that are most likely to take place.

- The use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture and animal husbandry and the genetic interventions made as a result of the impact of global markets necessitate enhanced controls on the national and international scale.
- The incentive mechanisms for financing investments that would support environmental sustainability should be strengthened.
- The social media offers new opportunities for assuring environmental sustainability. These range from acquiring knowledge to consumption habits, and from raising awareness to new forms of organization. The ability of different sectors of society to access social media is an issue that needs to be handled separately.
- In order to ensure that the projects of international institutions are adopted by society, participation through information-sharing needs to be enhanced.
- Certification and regular reporting are needed in order to control the activities of the private sector on the national and international scale.
- It is necessary to create mechanisms and provide opportunities for non-governmental organizations to take an active role in monitoring and assessing the environmental sustainability in such a way as to support the regulatory and supervisory role of the public sector.
- The support of non-governmental organizations and universities also needs to be enlisted in order to strengthen the consulting and expertise functions for the development of models for the orientation of public policies on the basis of mutual communication and environmental sustainability.
- NGOs need to develop communication and information sharing practices that enable them to complement one another and support cooperation among NGOs working on similar topics.
- Universities need to concentrate their activities in the fields of environmental sustainability to ensure the flow of scientific and technical knowledge at the levels of both policy-making and implementation.
- The private sector should take an active role in existing local networks for environmental sustainability and companies above a certain size should publish regular sustainability reports.



• The monitoring of these reports by other stakeholders would provide important guidance for consumers and investors.

• Attention should be paid to investments in forestation.

• As stated during the Kastamonu Regional Meeting, the level of public interest in and demand for environmental participation needs to be increased. Efforts should be made to ensure that all environmental potential is used.

• Legislation needs to be amended for local governments to have a leading role in energy generation. However, local energy administration and related decisions can cause the local people to become worried, as stated during the Kastamonu Regional Meeting.

• Uncertainty about both the economic gains and the effects on the environment and health of projects such as hydroelectric power plants and thermal and nuclear power plants creates an environment of conflict and causes social vulnerability and other problems. At the Kütahya Meeting, it was observed that it was necessary to provide growth and employment and

at the same time avoid harm to the environment.

• Ecological, social and cultural sustainability should be prime considerations in the water use policies of local governments.

• The preservation in situ and sustainable use of biological diversity and gene resources should be enhanced.

• At the HABITAT National Youth Workshop, it was underlined that the concept of the “green collar worker”

• Environmental impact analyses taking in to account socio economic factors should be conducted. and calculations was underlined during the local media should be used in transferring information and raising awareness.

• Local green area systems - such as urban vegetable gardens/agriculture/gardening - should be developed and incorporated into local spatial planning process.

• Local governments should pursue cherishing the historical and cultural texture.

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

1. The answers given by survey participants to the question “Which of the following best describes the relationship between the protection of the natural environment and economic growth in Turkey for the Post-2015 period?” are revealing. As many as 42.4% of respondents say that “There is no relation between economic development and the protection of the natural environment”. However, the second largest group of respondents (31.8%) agree that the “protection of the natural environment enhances economic development”.

2. with the percentages of those who agree and disagree with the statement “Progress will be made in Turkey for the protection of the natural environment in the Post-2015 era” are the same. In fact, the largest group is made up of those who are not sure about their opinion (28.8%). The conclusion may be reached that there are no positive expectations for the year 2015 onwards.

3. The survey participants were asked the question “Which issues do you think Turkey should prioritize for the Post-2015 era?” and requested to rate the issues listed as “most important”, “important” or “slightly important”.

4. The issue of “Sustainable Economic Development” was marked “most important” by 10.8% of the respondents, “important” by 6.9% and “slightly important” by 7.6%. While a group of 10.8% sees sustainable economic development as the most important issue, a group of 7.6% deems it only slightly important. This could be held to indicate that the participants in the survey are not adequately aware of one of the essential principles of the Millennium Development Goals.

5. The proportions of respondents who deem environmental problems like climate change (6.3%), environmental pollution (4.7%) and biodiversity (1.3%) “most important” add up to a total rate of 12.3%. The proportion who

deem these topics “important” is 10.1% in total (4.5% + 4.1% + 1.5%). The proportion who consider these topics only “slightly important” is 10.3% in total (3.3% + 4.2% + 2.8%). Even though these rates do not seem to be very high, one can argue that there is awareness about environmental problems and that awareness about the environment is higher than other issues.

6. Asked what they think the the relationship between environmental protection and economic growth will be in Turkey after 2015, 47% of women saw environmental protection as positive for economic development the percentage for men is 47\$. The percentage for the age groups above 55 is above 50%.

Faced with the statement “The protection of the natural environment will improve in Turkey after 2015”, the majority of women (30.1% were undecided. Men agreed more strongly (27.9%), but at the same time the percentage of the undecided was 27.2%. The percentages of respondents in the age groups 25-34 and 35-44 who did not support the statement were 23.8% and 30,4% respectively. In answer to the question “Which topics should be given priority in Turkey’s Post-2015 development process?”, 8.8% of women stressed sustainable economic development, 1.6% biodiversity and the protection of ecosystems; 6.5% climate change and coping with its negative consequences, and 5.01 % reduction of environmental pollution. The age group 18-24 put a stronger emphasis on these topics: among these young people, sustainable economic development received the backing of 9.5%, biodiversity and protection of ecosystems 1.2%; climate change and coping with its negative consequences 7.0%, and the reduction of environmental pollution 4.8%.



Meral Çatak, Instagram Campaign



6.

FOOD SECURITY and NUTRITION

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

The nutrition and food needs of individuals are essential requirements that concern the lives of individuals, societies and countries, and affect all sociological, cultural, political and economic developments. The ability to participate in the economic, political, cultural and artistic activities that make life meaningful, and to produce and generate value, also depend on a person's health, and health depends on good nutrition. Accordingly, the concepts of "food security" and "food safety" are becoming more and more important for every country.

The main elements of food security and nutrition are safe and nutritious food products for everyone. One of the pre-conditions for providing food safety and meeting the nutrition requirement for every individual in every country, even under minimum conditions, is the reduction of poverty.

The policy-makers, decision-makers and experts in Turkey meticulously touch upon the fact that access to food, the most essential human right, and sustainable production are keys to food security and nutrition.

Turkey has made significant progress in terms of food security with the amendments which it has made to the food legislation. many new legal regulations have been enacted and/or amendments have been made to laws to bring the food legislation into line with international standards imposed for purposes both of healthy nutrition and of access to food. Within this context, regulations and circulars have been issued and new regulations are being enacted depending on the developments. The most important of these is the “Law on Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Animal Feed” published in 2010. The law has thoroughly changed the food security system ranging from the field/farm to the table/fork. The law encompasses: the stages of production, processing and distribution of food; materials and substances that contact food and animal feed; controls on plant protection products and veterinary medical product residues and other residues and contaminants; the fight against epidemic and contagious animal diseases and harmful organisms in plants and plant products; the welfare of farm and laboratory animals as well as household animals and pets; zoo-technical issues; veterinary health and plant protection products; veterinary and plant health services; the entry and exit to/from the country of live animals

and products, and official controls and investments in relation to these issues. Additionally, another important regulation is the “Turkish Food Codex Regulation” published in 2011. The objective of this Regulation is to set out minimum technical and hygienic criteria for food, substances and materials that come into contact with food, pesticide residues and veterinary drug residues, food additives, aroma enhancers and aromatic food components, contaminants, packaging, labelling, sampling and methods of analysis, together with essential principles of the vertical and horizontal food codex related to transportation and storage as well as special provisions related to the identification of geographical names.

The “Bio-Safety Law” published in 2010 is another important law. The objective of this law is to determine the principles and procedures to be followed in order to prevent the risks that may arise due to genetically modified organisms and products derived by using modern technology, to protect the environment in terms of human, animal and plant health and biological diversity, to set up and implement a bio-safety system in order to ensure sustainability, and to control, regulate and monitor these activities. In addition to these laws, several regulations have been enacted and circulars published, and all these have been put into effect. These are all important regulatory acts with respect to food security and safety.



Hakan Çınar, Instagram Campaign





Özlem Akyıldırım, Instagram Campaign

2. Priorities for Post-2015 and Beyond



Migration from rural to urban areas

Under the food security and nutrition thematic area one of the main priorities is identified as formulating policies to create incentives to keep the rural population in rural areas. Reduction of poverty in rural areas, creation of new employment opportunities, supporting small producers and small-sized enterprises would contribute to the livelihood of population living in the rural areas which would in turn decrease the motives for migration to urban areas.

Constitutional safeguards for food security

One fourth of Turkey's population is at risk of poverty, they are also high risk groups in terms of food security. The necessity of creation of constitutional safeguards to ensure access to basic food and healthy diet for the population living in rural areas and urban areas, especially for children, are among the assessments made in the meetings. In addition, participants pointed out that mechanisms must be developed to meet the need of the poor population against the sudden surges in food prices.

Self-sufficiency in basic products

One of the key elements that is essential in ensuring food security is self-sufficiency of agricultural production in Turkey for basic products. The conditions for self-sufficiency are identified as; to ensure the increase in production and productivity, to expand

of business scales and farm sizes, to tackle the problems caused by the increase in energy prices, to ensure self-sufficiency especially in strategic products, to provide better planning for crop and livestock production sectors, to develop gender-balanced approaches in agricultural sectors and to improve R & D services and supports mechanisms.

Reaching international standards in food safety and quality

It is also stressed that while ensuring food security, it is also important to give importance to food quality. For these purposes, effective food quality controls, increasing the numbers of quality control laboratories, promotion of environment-friendly production methods, provision of effective training and extension activities on food safety are expressed as important factors.

Meetings also highlighted the disparities regarding food security and nutrition priorities in different regions, even within the regions there are huge differences. The stakeholders agreed on the opinion that in Turkey's western, Thrace, the Black Sea regions hunger and nutrition problems are not considerable. However, in regions with high unemployment rates and crowded households, the structure of the problem is experienced on a more serious basis. Additionally, the problems of hunger, poverty and access to food are also widespread for the landless population in rural areas, small family businesses or enterprises. On the other hand, it is emphasized that poverty and access

to food are major problems for non-skilled populations who migrated from rural areas to big cities.

According to the results of the online survey that was conducted participants were provided with the statement: "The access to food in Turkey will be secured in the period after 2015."; the opinions of respondents to the statement revealed that there are social concerns regarding access to food even though the rate of population living under the hunger threshold in Turkey has been greatly reduced. While 30.4% out of 1137 participants responded 'disagree' or 'definitely disagree' to the statement that everyone will have the right to access food after the year 2013, 27.5 per cent stated that they were not sure.

In other words, more than half of the respondents are worried about this topic.

Other important point identified was migration from rural to urban areas and development of rural areas. As a matter of fact, 48% of the respondents stated that they disagreed or definitely disagreed with the statement "Progress will be achieved in terms of tackling the problems related to migration from rural to urban areas for economic reasons in Turkey after 2015.", whereas 25.8% gave the reply that they were not sure. In other words, there are some concerns related to the future of rural areas in economic terms, therefore, the livelihood and food security of this population.

In the online survey that was conducted in parallel with the consultation meetings, 30.4% out of the 1,137 respondents responded 'disagree' or 'definitely disagree' to the statement that everyone will enjoy the right to access to food after the year 2015, while 27.5% stated that they were not sure. In other words, more than half of the respondents were worried about this topic.

The survey also included questions on migration from rural to urban areas and the development of rural areas. As many as 48% of the respondents stated that they disagreed or definitely disagreed with the statement "Progress will be achieved in terms of tackling the problems related to migration from rural to urban areas for economic reasons in Turkey after 2015.", and 25.8% indicated that they were not sure. In other words, there are some concerns related to the future of rural areas in economic terms, and hence to the livelihoods and food security of this population.



3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Every citizen should have a constitutional right to access to food, and governments should make special arrangements for this.
- Basic food must be guaranteed for the entire population, particularly for the vulnerable groups. Self sufficiency in basic food stuffs should be assured. Conditions for the fair share of food should be created.
- Social policies for the nutrition of the poor and unemployed should be developed.
- Consumers right to access to food should be monitored by specific policies. Participants also stressed the importance.
- Seed sector for ensuring food security, and stressed the protection and promotion of domestic seed sector.
- The production of agriculture should be optimised in line with the international standards and the practice should be in line with the global consumer rights.
- Production and consumption of organic products.
- The informal production of foods to be reduced and eliminated. Not only production and quality problems but also.
- Marketing problems that may arise should be tackled.
- For the continuation and sustainability of agricultural production small family businesses should be supported. Numbers and efficiency of agricultural cooperatives in rural areas should be increased and improved.
- Attention should be given to improve the working and living conditions of seasonal migrant agriculture sector should be developed.
- Systems that will create incentives for the young population to stay in agriculture sector, stopping increases in input prices, supporting those who want to move from a traditional operating businesses to modern management are also important in solving problems.
- Agricultural and socio-economic policies should be developed to create sustainable living conditions in rural areas and to decrease the levels of migration from rural areas.
- Efficient and effective agricultural training and extension services should be developed to build capacity and skills of those working in agriculture.
- Protection of soil, water, plant and animal genetic resources is only possible with the active realization of



efficient agricultural policies.

- Problems in agriculture employees' social security rights, especially for women farmers should be solved.
- Economic and social policies in favour of the poor should be developed.
- Monitoring of agricultural land use should be conducted by scientific methods. The principle of gender equality should be endorsed in all policy formulation and implementation processes.
- Data infrastructure for agricultural policies should be improved, and international standards must be achieved through cooperation with regional and global international organizations.
- The risks associated with climate change and mitigation measures should be improved, also to be included

in agricultural insurance schemes.

- Informality should be reduced both in production and employment.
- Misuse of agricultural land also should be prevented.
- Inter-regional development disparities should be reduced and eliminated by developing specific approaches and policies taking into consideration of the different characteristics and needs of the regions.
- Regional food control and innovation and centres should be established. Strategies should be developed to ensure the optimum farm size and productivity for the specific needs of different regions.
- Effective marketing legislation should be developed in order to improve efficiency of producers' organizations in each region.



Hakan Çınar, Instagram Campaign

7.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

The national consultation meeting itself was held in November 2012 in Ankara with the participation of representatives of the public and private sectors, civil society, universities, bar associations and high courts. Unlike the other thematic group meetings, small breakout sessions were also conducted in addition to the plenary session.

In addition to this, one of the tools of the Democratic Governance Web Platform created by the Mobile Democracy Association <http://www.geleceginizedokunun.com> a survey called Touch Your Future, was used to make qualitative and quantitative analyses. Social networks were also used. Further, people were encouraged to send SMS messages to the Web platform through a national SMS Governance Platform, and comments were posted here. Lastly, a mobile application platform was used for iPhone and Android phones, and announcements about the surveys were also posted here. The Touch Your Future survey was answered by 5,103 people, most of whom were in the age groups 18–24 and 25–34, and 85–90% of whom were at least high school graduates.

During the thematic meeting held in Ankara 40 participants addressed the topic of democratic governance under four headings: (1) accountability, (2) participation, (3) transparency and (4) legitimacy. Under each of these areas, discussions focused on the priority problem areas and measures to be taken. It should be underlined that issues of governance also came to the fore in other thematic areas. During discussions of policy-making processes in these other thematic areas, all four dimensions of governance were touched on, but it was the issues of participation and transparency that were dwelt upon the most. Apart from the thematic meeting, the issue of democratic governance also figured strongly on the agenda of the regional meetings, where the importance of local governance mechanisms was frequently underlined.

The first essential principle of governance addressed during the thematic meeting on democratic governance was accountability. It was emphasized that the biggest problem with respect to accountability was the lack of social awareness about what accountability means. With respect to participation, the inadequate development of the culture of participation in Turkey was seen as the most important problem. The participants attributed this mainly to inadequate demand and awareness, patriarchal and feudal structures, fear and learned helplessness. In addition, the lack of a culture of participation was linked to failure to include disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes, blockage of the progress of individuals in political mechanisms, lack of confidence in participation in politics and lack of encouragement for participation,



Thematic Discussions on Democratic Governance, Ankara

failure by individuals to influence the decisions of the agencies they are part of and a consequent failure to internalize the culture of participation, the concentration of participation around the same networks and individuals, the dependence of participation in political processes on economic power, lack of ownership and inadequate representation.

Apart from the inadequate development of the culture of participation, other priority problem areas identified under this heading concerned methods and processes for participation and their effectiveness, efficiency of legal participation, lack of budget control mechanisms and lack of organized institutional structures. Participants emphasized that city councils and local organizations have not been able to achieve effectiveness, and NGOs have not become strong enough.

During the regional consultation meetings, the issue of governance emerged as one of the most important problem areas. In this context, attention was drawn in particular to the limited nature of resources and to problems experienced in the provision of services. It was also argued that governance is not understood in a human-centred way. During the regional consultation meeting in Kütahya, participants were predominantly concerned that mechanisms for acting together, determining shared objectives and establishing coordination among the institutions were weak. Frequently-mentioned problems included the lack of unity among administrators and breakdowns in communication between the centre and the districts.

The primary issues that emerged in terms of governance may be summarized as bolstering democracy and participation and facilitating access to services, especially by means of local governments. Participants also touched upon the importance of efforts to ensure that participation, transparency and accountability become a way of life. It was strongly argued that legitimacy in the local, regional and global contexts would only be possible through the institutionalized practice of participation, transparency and accountability. The view that accountability, in particular, needs to be established within the framework of objective and quantifiable norms, while casting aside subjective assessments and definitions, was expressed strongly. What came to the forefront during the national consultation meeting was an emphasis on participation as the indispensable precondition for the other three pillars of governance. Within this framework, the most essential issue on which consensus was achieved was the need to institutionalize participation in such a way as to include everyone.

It was repeatedly pointed out that good governance has a leading role to play in making the sustainable development goals achievable in the period after 2015, and that it should be adopted as the essential norm of operation at all levels from the local neighbourhood to the national. Hence governance emerges as a pre-condition for the achievement of targets in all other thematic areas, and it becomes necessary to accept it as a thematic area per se, so that it is prevented from being lost in the general discourse.



2. Priorities for Post-2015 and Beyond

Development of awareness about accountability, and creation of effective controlling mechanisms

The most important priorities in the field of accountability, have been identified as: the development of awareness of accountability in society; the establishment of effective control mechanisms, and rendering the process of accountability and holding others accountable effective in the context of legal norms.

Development of a culture of participation, and creation of mechanisms to ensure participation

It was emphasized that the most important priorities for participation were to develop a culture of participation in Turkey to adopt effective mechanisms for ensuring the participation of disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes, to encourage participation in politics in general, to develop the methods, processes, effectiveness and efficiency of participation in legal and budget control mechanisms, to enhance the effectiveness of city councils

and local organizations, and to foster NGOs in order to develop an organized institutionalized structure.

Enactment of the regulations needed to increase transparency

As for transparency, it was underlined that the necessary regulations need to be enacted in order to overcome the essential barriers that stand in the way of transparency in Turkey.

Overcoming barriers to legitimacy

Legitimacy has to rely on people and derive its power from them. Attention is also drawn to the need to increase participation in governing and decision-making processes and to enhance the accountability of administrations.

Prioritization of social responsibility and sustainability

During importance needs to be given, it to issues of social responsibility and sustainability. The state policies, need to be open to the participation of the NGOs and to take into account the young population. Effective checks and balances in the governance system of the state need to be developed.

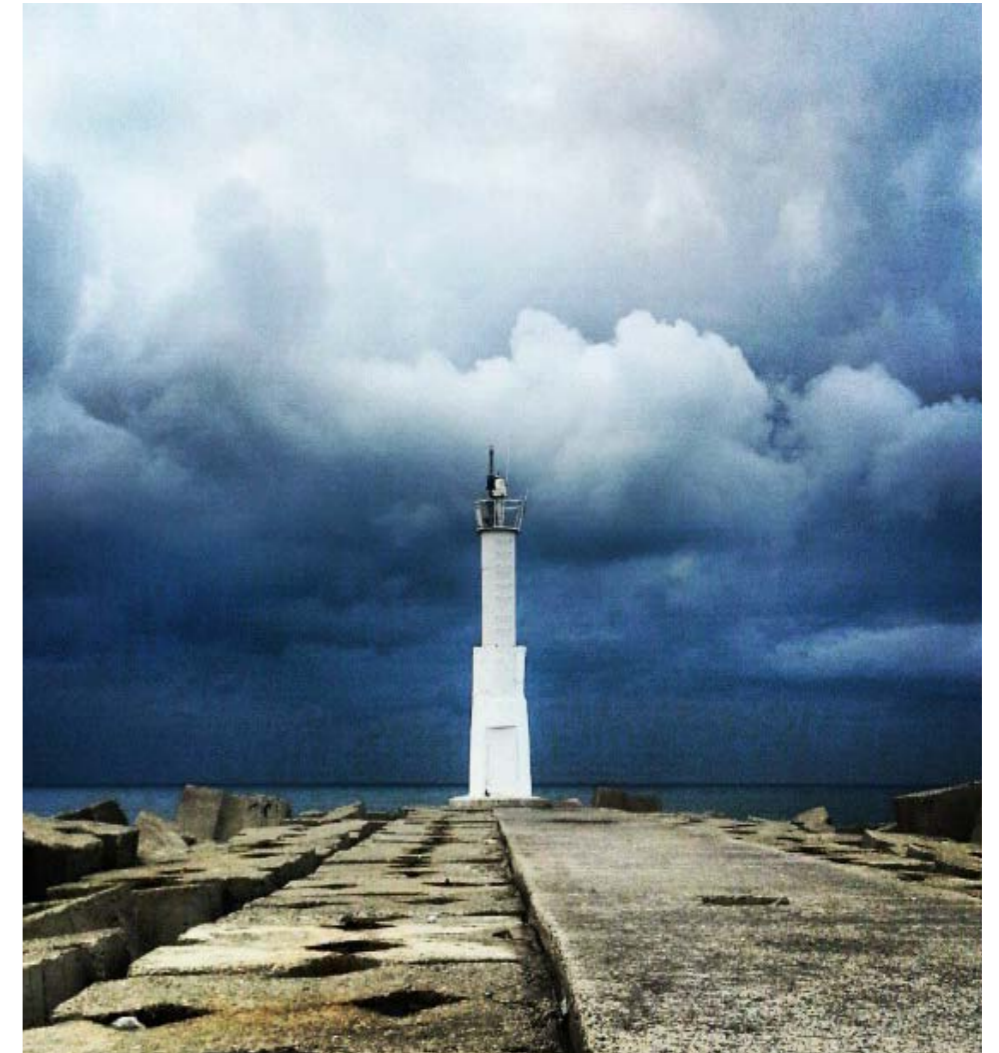
3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Individuals of every age and background should be provided with education to ensure social awareness of accountability and develop a social culture of holding others accountable,
- Efforts should be made to turn the concept of conscience-based justice into an objective concept.
- Legal education should be included in the curriculum and offered to children, young people and adults in the education system. Legal education should be provided for actively working individuals via institutional and in-house training, to develop the culture of accountability.
- Lifelong learning policies need to be adopted to ensure correct understanding and application of the culture of accountability.
- A database infrastructure in line with international standards needs to be established, and effective and independent control mechanisms based on objective performance indicators need to be set up.
- Efforts must be made to ensure that comparable data are obtained in relation to accountability and that an evaluation/assessment base is created.
- The said data should be made widely available on a municipality-by-municipality basis, with databases accessible via the Internet site of every municipality.
- The quality of audits and the number of auditors should be raised and the importance of mutual accountability - not just audits on the basis of line relationships - should be understood and put into practice.
- Regulations and guarantees that prevent legal accountability should be abolished, apart from job descriptions determined by objective criteria.
- Legal arrangements should be enacted so that certain officials can be brought before the law and a lawsuit filed.
- Awareness of the administrative responsibilities of people in administrative positions should be enhanced and the barriers in the way of starting processes that may lead to disciplinary investigations or removal from position are lifted.
- The broad guarantees which currently exist should be reduced, within reasonable limits, and narrowed down to areas related to the requirements of positions.
- It should be acknowledged that the perception and implementation of accountability also bring about a problem of self-esteem. The importance of citizens/tax-payers claiming their rights and holding people accountable in return for the services they receive needs to be more widely recognised.
- The awareness of the public on participants should be increased through education
- Acquired rights should be monitored and extended.
- The organization of disadvantaged groups should be facilitated and encouraged.

- The participation of women and young people in decision-making processes at the local and national levels should be encouraged, beginning with political parties.
- The law on elections and political parties should be revised in such a way as to remove the barriers in the way of participation.
- Quotas should be used to make participation mechanisms more effective and encourage proportional participation.
- The internal structures of NGOs should become democratic and participation via legislative amendment should be adopted as the essential principle.
- Neighbourhood-level organizations should be supported and structures such as neighbourhood assemblies and neighbourhood committees should be formed.
- A system similar to a vote of confidence should be introduced so that mayors can be recalled by popular vote.
- A system of government/governance with enhanced local representation should be created. In this context, the duty and responsibility to provide some services should be shifted from central government to local government.
- The information system should be strengthened and the right to obtain information should be exercised.
- The law on elections and political parties should be amended to ensure that parliamentary candidates are chosen through a primary election.
- It should be ensured that whoever wishes to do so can engage in organized politics.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that every political party member participates in the primary election.
- Legal amendments providing for the establishment of organizations on a

Respondents to the survey 'Touch Your Future' prioritised the following suggestions for the development agenda after 2015 in relation to accountability:

- Facilitation of people's access to the accountability mechanisms of the state (39.74%);
- Increasing public awareness about obtaining information (31.09%);
- Increasing the awareness of public employees with respect to being transparent (16.62%), and
- Assumption of a supervisory role in accountability mechanisms by NGOs (12.54%)



Erdem Findıkoğlu, Instagram Campaign

- local level should be put into effect.
- Auditing, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be implemented effectively.
- Legal amendments providing for the establishment of an independent auditing mechanism should be put into effect.
- The principle of participation should be respected during the legislative processes.

- Priority should be given to strengthening city councils and ensuring financial autonomy.
- Legislation which prevents decisions from being implemented without being approved by higher authorities should be abrogated.
- The principle that organized participation also brings about efficient participation should be adopted.

External/independent audit practices are ensured and implemented within the framework of universal norms in order to assure transparency.

- The internal and external audits should not only be performed, but the audit reports should also be shared with people upon demand and/or shared with the public in general.
- Public agencies should be made to respond to the requests for information which they receive from citizens and other bodies, on condition that personal information is kept confidential and no causal links are sought after, and to present reliable statistical information on their web sites in connection with their areas of activity.
- The distance between citizens and state institutions, in particular, should be reduced and the scope of information provision widened,

especially in relation to national security and safety-related matters.

- The technical infrastructure necessary for providing/obtaining such information should be put into place.
- The participation of civil society in decision-making processes should be ensured
- Declarations of wealth made by people who are public figures - such as administrators of public agencies and private enterprises - should be shared with the public.
- Measures should be taken to ensure that the political aid provided to political parties during election periods is openly shared and officially documented.
- Efforts should be made to ensure widespread adoption of the idea that an equitable representation of all

In connection with participation, participants in the survey 'Touch Your Future', prioritised the following suggestions for the development agenda after 2015:

- Encouragement of the practice of positive participation for women in local and national government elections mechanisms, with political parties leading the way (28.21%);
- Transparent and traceable decision-making mechanisms (25.71%);
- Enhancement of the representation of NGOs in government mechanisms along with local and national city councils, etc. (23.69%), and
- Inclusion of the themes of participation and democracy in educational curricula at every level (22.39%).

sectors of society in Parliament forms the basis of legitimacy/legitimate government.

- Electronic tools should be used (especially in municipalities, bar associations and universities) in order to ensure the implementation of the concept of ombudsmanship, and increased participation in such mechanisms should be encouraged.
- Based on the view that government can only be effective if the state is participatory, open, transparent and

legitimate, priority should be given to strengthening civil society, supporting disadvantaged groups and checking the biased power of the media.

- Enhancing voter awareness, thus ensuring a higher level of popular representation in Parliament (32.08%);
- Establishment of institutions through which the young generation can express their thoughts on the future of the country (25.99%);

With respect to transparency, participants in the survey 'Touch Your Future' prioritised the following suggestions for the development agenda after 2015:

- Ensuring that the work of all bureaucratic agencies is observable by means of electronic platforms (31.49%);
- Staging of informative events for the public in relation to related technologies, and raising of demand for electronic government and mobile government (25.58%);
- Publication by public agencies and all serving units of periodical reports in a language that can be understood by the people (22.09%), and
- A more active role for NGOs in raising the awareness of for the public on access to information (20.84%).
- Inspiring confidence in the people about the transparency of institutions (23.18%), and
- The creation of knowledge-sharing platforms by academic institutions and public bodies (18.75%).





ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

The answers given to the questions on the theme of democratic governance included in the public survey on the Post-2015 development agenda after 2015 which was published on the UNDP web page in parallel with the national consultation process can be summarized as follows:

Nearly 25% of the survey participants replied “agree” or “definitely agree” to the statement “Participation of all sectors of the society will be ensured in the processes of policy creation and implementation in Turkey after 2015,” whereas 52% of them responded “disagree” or “definitely disagree”. These results shows that confidence in the possibility of establishing a participatory approach to policy-making processes in Turkey is weak.

21% of the survey participants replied “agree” or “definitely agree” to the statement “The state government will become transparent, accountable and monitor-able in Turkey after 2015,” whereas as many as 63% responded “disagree” or “definitely disagree”. These rates seriously call into question the confidence of citizens in a transparent, accountable and monitor-able state government.



8.

CONFLICT and FRAGILITY

Tuğçe Togay, Instagram Campaign

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

In the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there was no direct reference to conflict and fragility, human rights and migration. However this thematic area has a special place in the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations launched with the theme “The Future We Want”.

The concept of conflict and fragility (including post-conflict countries and countries prone to natural disasters), and the wide-ranging meanings and consequences of these concepts, were discussed intensively during the consultations in Turkey.

The nature of violent conflicts has changed dramatically in recent decades. The predominant form of violent conflict has evolved from national armies fighting each other (inter-state wars) to armies fighting for independence, separation or political control (intra-state or civil wars),

and to various forms of violence involving non-state actors such as rebels, gangs and organized crime.

Fragile state is the terms used for countries facing particularly severe development challenges in the form of weak institutional capacity, poor governance and political instability. These countries are often experience ongoing violence as the residue of past severe conflict.

The changing nature of conflicts was stressed during the consultations where, as one academic pointed out, new types of conflict such as IT crimes have surfaced, in addition to traditional types of conflicts including various types of rebellions and organized crime. Cyber-crime, diverse forms of violent behaviour, shortcomings in the disaster-preparedness of public institutions, social inequalities caused by urban transformation and divergent, contradictory practices followed at times of disaster management especially by different bodies such as NGOs and governments, also cause conflict and fragility.

The inconsistent practices of governments and NGOs are especially visible in terms of weak institutional capacity, especially in public services, and unfair distribution of services. While state services are more comprehensive, NGOs are unable to access everyone equally, but rather respond to narrower and more specific groups and needs.

With these considerations in mind, the participants agreed that fragility needs to be discussed under three main headlines: organisational, social and physical.

According to another point of view expressed during the consultations, the factors that cause conflicts and fragility are economic, results of social policies, nationalism, militarism and the language used by the media.

There was a general consensus amongst the participants that the concept of conflict needs to be analysed and understood not only in the context of Turkey but within its regional and international dimensions. With globalization, states, societies and cultures have become increasingly inter-connected and inter-dependent. Increasing migration is one of the manifestations of the processes that make both development and security issues that transcend national borders. The list of challenges that countries cannot address on their own today is long and includes environmental pollution, climate change, infectious diseases, terrorism, piracy, organized crime, human trafficking and the arms trade. Similarly, states need to act together if they are to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the growth of trade and communications and the movement of people. In this sense, all regional and local policies are also becoming part of the global system. Furthermore, shortcomings existing in a certain country tend to have



Thematic Meeting on "Conflict and Fragility Consultation Meeting", Ankara

spillover effect on other countries as a result of their economic and financial inter-connectedness.

When the political, economic, social and environmental factors influencing conflict and fragility were discussed in relation to Turkey, the most important potential factors highlighted were economic and social inequalities, unemployment, working conditions, poorly managed international and internal migration, disasters and internal displacement. The limited governmental capacity to address the aforementioned challenges, including ethnic and religious dimensions, was also cited as a factor favourable to conflict and fragility.

Building on the above points, it is important to elucidate the link between migration, conflict and fragility. Conflicts in any form often lead to displacement, insecurity, human

rights violations and loss of social and economic well being, rendering populations fragile and vulnerable. Un-managed migration and/or the mass displacement of populations may indeed lead to tensions between the local communities and/or the fleeing populations irrespective of categories which, if not addressed, can turn into conflicts.

As one academic pointed out, significant developments and changes have taken place in Turkey in relation to natural disasters since the earthquakes of 1999. Extensive efforts have been made in relation to disaster preparedness and disaster management including efforts to create resilience in communities and preparedness strategies to make them more robust and enduring. The importance of psycho-social support during disasters has been perceived

as a particular challenge and efforts have been stepped up to bring about further improvements in this area. Especially within the framework of search and rescue activities, significant progress has been achieved in the use of technology to mitigate damage in the aftermath of a disaster.

An NGO representative emphasized that important achievements have also been registered in health and social services thanks to the transformation that has taken place since the 2000s. These services are built on the rights-based approach, where intervention is made to eliminate the differences among different groups and regions as well as reduce poverty and deprivation within the country.

The introduction of concepts such as family insurance and health security systems into the social services system is a positive development.

Another emerging issue related to conflict and fragility is the dynamism of ideas. As can be seen from the example of the Arab Spring, the nature of revolutions has also been influenced by modern developments such as social media. While the dynamics of political movements and effectiveness of communication among countries have increased, which can bring benefits to the societies concerned, these changes can also lead to a growing polarization within societies and increased instabilities.

2. Priorities for Post-2015 and Beyond

Natural Disasters

Significant gaps in the disaster management system and urban transformation policies are among the factors which have led to increasing fragility, especially in urban areas. There are shortcomings in terms of the use of IT-based systems, especially during natural disasters. It is important to upgrade the nation-wide technical infrastructure to address the immediate effects and needs that arise as a result of disasters.

According to an NGO representative, an important problem experienced following the Van earthquakes was the differences in the assistance provided by the state and civil society to the affected population. After the earthquake, 136,000 thousand people migrated from the region. There is no research or information in relation to the number of people who went back, the new life they are leading in the new places where they settled and the socio-economic problems they have had to deal with.

Disaster preparedness

Several participants in the Ankara meeting argued that damage mitigation efforts were being implemented in Turkey both before and after disasters. However, an NGO representative argued that fragility is still present due to the fact that these efforts have not been implemented. It is known that most health institutions do not have detailed disaster preparedness plans, and the measures taken are based on the period after the earthquake. The migratory movements in the aftermath of the Van earthquakes were different from those that followed the 1999 quakes. However, there is no research analysing such social results. The perspective in Turkey is primarily focused on material damage. Even though calculations are made in relation to the physical vulnerability and size of the damage, more detailed risk calculations have to be made by the relevant bodies. The damage caused by disasters also need to be examined with respect to socio-economic sensitivity/vulnerability. Following the 1999 earthquakes, the Gross National Product (GNP) dropped by 5% and business life came to a standstill. As for the results of the Van earthquake, they remain to be seen. In this context, the need to handle the social results of disasters not only in the context of migration but also in terms of labour and revenue loss is important. Risk also encompasses the body of precautions that would be necessitated by a natural disaster threat. The growing interest in large cities in recent times

will also increase this kind of risk. An opinion that emerged as a result of the surveys conducted during the Validation Meeting on March 7 was that local governments had to be effective and responsible in making disaster preparation plans.

Managed migration

Migration is a process of adjustment. Internal migration is usually a consequence of economic problems in one part of a country (reduction of job opportunities): people moving away from these places where there are jobs as a way of restoring the equilibrium. Problems arise when this is poorly managed and/or when there are underlying inter-ethnic tensions.

As stated by an academic, the isolation and lack of integration experienced by migrants in areas that receive new influxes of migration result in illegal employment, making it difficult for the individuals in question to access social and health-care services. Attention was also drawn to the importance of gender in situations of conflict and fragility.

In terms of gender equality, the participation of women in labour and education is rather low in many regions due to the patriarchal structure. The women are perceived as individuals who are in charge of daily chores and caring for children and the elderly. The lack of any institutionalized support mechanisms to undertake these tasks makes women more vulnerable. For example, women





THERE IS A NEED TO SHIFT THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON MIGRATION FROM A NARROW AND INADEQUATE VIEW TO A WIDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AWARENESS OF THE ROLE MIGRANTS COULD PLAY AS PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT.

IOM ISSUE PAPER FROM NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON CONFLICT & FRAGILITY, 2012 /

who request state protection in Van due to domestic violence are sent to Konya or Siirt, since there is nowhere to accommodate them in their own province. The objective is to draw them away from their family and husband. While this is a temporary solution it is important to ensure the continuity of the standardized services rather than providing temporary solutions.

Displaced persons and seasonal workers

The lack of support mechanisms and social service institutions available for seasonal workers may cause fragility. The same problems exist for internally displaced people. Internal and seasonal migrants may face problems of integration during their migratory journey. Furthermore, these groups tend to face informal employment and discrimination in their new destinations due to cultural, ethnic or religious factors.

The occupational safety and health problems emerging during informal employment are not reflected in the official records. Thus, the conflict caused at the local level by the informal employment of people who migrate to cities via the mechanism of contractual work should also be addressed.

Asylum-seekers and migrants

With respect to the inevitability of international migration, the position of Turkey as a transit and destination country is important. Due to the conflicts in its region, Turkey is seen as a transit and a destination country for populations coming from neighbouring countries as well as Asia and Africa.

These heavy migratory flows, many of which are of an irregular nature, present the government with significant challenges, impose a burden on Turkish society and can exacerbate and give rise to tensions. These people encounter difficulties as they try to migrate to other countries via Turkey due to the conflicts in their countries. The process of determining the status of these asylum-seekers/refugees and other vulnerable migrants is very time-consuming, and they meanwhile experience health problems and difficulty in accessing social services. The slow functioning of international law in this area causes further tensions. Due to the effect of the reform process in the field of health, access to health-care services in Turkey has not been easy in recent times even for Turkish citizens.

For these reasons, the people who

come to Turkey via international migration tend to engage in informal employment. They continue to have problems accessing health-care, social and educational services. An example of the most intense conflicts on this subject is constituted by the migrants that have come to Turkey due to the civil war in Syria. Even if social assistance is provided for these people, their lack of legal status and the tensions with the local population result in (or may reinforce) conflicts. As a result of the surveys conducted during the Validation Meeting on March 7, it was pointed out that refugees and asylum-seekers are ignored when it comes to social services, and that it is important to enable these groups to have access to fundamental human rights.

During the Youth for Habitat meeting, the failure of migrants and asylum-seekers to have their children registered at schools, and problems of access to the right to education, were mentioned as a major problem.

Conflicts are bound to happen wherever there are power relations. The concept of conflict should be viewed within the country from a wider perspective that includes violence. The Kurdish question and terrorism are not only problems of Turkey; they are much more general problems. Fragility is a dynamic and wide-ranging concept and it is difficult to tackle this issue without coming to an agreement on the content and scope of the concept of fragility. To handle it as a dynamic concept, it would

be more correct to define Turkey as a country with a tendency to have conflicts rather than as a vulnerable country. It is argued that this situation does not stem from Turkey only but from regional dynamics. Accordingly, regional and global dynamics should not be overlooked when addressing fragility.

Forced migration

Another aspect of migration in Turkey is forced migration. The problem of displaced persons, the evacuation and burning of villages and the migration of people to the west and cities brought about significant challenges in terms of the provision of social policies and health-care services for the displaced people. In addition, the poverty and problems of integration experienced by these people in the places to which they migrate may give rise to conflict and fragility.

Structuring social services and assistance

Although the government's rights-based approach to social services is positive, social services are still rather closely identified with social assistance, resulting in a situation where some people live without working, dependent on social benefits. The resulting schism in society between those who work and those who do not is not part of development in any way whatsoever. While some people use electricity illegally, and perceive this as their right, others pay their bills and questions why they should be made to pay for the electricity consumed

illegally. Yet social assistance should be temporary and only aimed at overcoming a specific crisis. If this assistance is provided on a permanent basis or over an excessively long period, and then the assistance is for some reason discontinued at some point, this results in conflict and fragility.

Far from reducing the poverty of individuals, the way in which social assistance is provided at present causes it to accelerate. The poor people of the society are the most victimized and discriminated against. In this context, the present policies need to be criticized. It should be underlined in the context of preventing conflict and achieving social union that tools should be developed to fight poverty. Policies such as family assistance insurance need to be strengthened.

Informal employment of migrants

According to trade union representatives, informal employment is not in line with human dignity. The persistence or encouragement of informality consequently emerges as a

situation that leads people to conflict and increases their fragilities.

It is possible to access these services only with a citizenship number. The legal framework in Turkey is set up in such a way as to grant work permits only for qualified labour. Migrants - and especially those who work in domestic and care-giving services - account for a significant percentage of informal employment. However, institutional information and registration systems are lacking. The issue is only regulated through the Code of Obligations, which is inadequate in scope. There is a need to address the limitations of the provisions made in the Code of Obligations as well as the Labour Code and Social Security Code. Furthermore, there are also migrants working in the sex industry and other fields of heavy work. Migrants working in shipbuilding yards and jean workshops face significant health risks and have no security. The Turkish population is increasingly ageing, and many irregular migrants work in the sector of elderly care. However, this sector is not adequately regulated by law. The restriction of the rights of these groups in the context of organization

I WISH THAT THE YEAR 2015 WILL BE ONE IN WHICH ETERNAL AND LASTING PEACE THAT KANT EXPRESSED TWO CENTURIES AGO BUT REMAINED UN-ACHIEVED SO FAR WILL BE REALIZED.

A university student street interviews, Ankara



and trade union policies is also worrisome. A critical approach should be taken to the policies in this area.

Discriminatory attitudes and behaviour

An NGO representative suggested that one of the factors causing fragility and conflict in the society consists in the attitudes and behaviour adopted towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite and transsexual individuals. Members of these groups are obliged to migrate to large cities where they can remain more anonymous than in smaller settlements. Employment opportunities for LGBT individuals are almost non-existent, which leads to the formation of ghettos and new forms of social stratification. These individuals are not able to benefit from social services due to discrimination.

The fact that Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent) does not accept blood donations from LGBT individuals was mentioned as another form of discrimination against these individuals. In addition, the issues which the young people that took part in the Habitat meeting regarded as causes of conflict included the problems between university students and university administrations, discrimination against female students in terms of dormitories and accommodation, and the conflicts that young people have with their families.

Communities like the Kurds and Alawites are also vulnerable on the basis of their identities. Failure to adapt to life in the city causes these people to re-establish their habitual

ways of living in the places to which they migrate. The experience of these groups, based on their ethnic origins, causes them to remain in a state of limbo between individualization and socialization.

Climate change and natural disasters

According to the opinions of participants who attended the validation meeting on March 7 climate change, soil erosion and other natural disasters cause a significant level of fragility which should be taken into account. A risk assessment needs to be made in order to prevent the economic, spatial and geographical crises that could be brought about by these issues in rural areas and industrial regions.

Further causes of fragility

During the regional meetings, the topic of fragility and conflict came onto the agenda to a very limited extent under this heading. Generally speaking, the issues of conflict and fragility were tackled indirectly when issues such as inequality among regions, environmental sustainability, immigration and population dynamics and access to education were being discussed. During the Kastamonu Regional Meeting, it was argued that people graduating from vocational training courses with compulsory participation did not want to work in the fields in which they have received training. This was seen as a cause of conflict. During the Istanbul Regional Meeting an NGO representative spoke of significant shortcomings

in terms of disaster preparedness. Additionally, participants spoke of the conflict caused by the migration of uneducated people to the cities and by urban transformation and the resultant risks for environmental sustainability. Another important source of conflict for Istanbul is the lack of good governance and transparency in respect of decisions in relation to the city.

Another matter that was discussed during the meetings and perceived to constitute a source of conflict was

the migration experienced as a result of property sales to foreigners. The arrival of people from higher socio-economic groups and its economic impact (rising prices of houses and living costs in coastal towns) are considered undesirable by some local people. However, another view is that this issue cannot be assessed as a source of conflict, but rather that it adds dynamism to the economy and increases employment opportunities.

3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Relevant research topics on conflict and fragility should be identified and resources allocated for this purpose.
- International dialogue and relations need to be improved in order to prevent conditions which lead to conflict.
- Efforts should be made to settle conflicts peacefully in cooperation with neighbouring countries.
- A physical fragility assessment, including rough estimates of damage, should be conducted, and the implementation of disaster preparedness projects developed after the 1999 earthquakes should be enhanced.
- A decentralized approach should be adopted in managing disasters.
- Regional development goals and public employment should be developed in order to manage

internal migration better in all its aspects including education, health and employment.

- An inclusive policy and strategy needs to be developed for seasonal migration, so as to provide health-care and social services for people in the places where they are temporarily settled.
- Public policies should be developed for the integration of displaced persons and strategies allowing them access to basic services should be adopted. Asylum seekers and other migrants should be treated on the basis of human rights and provided full access to basic services during the conflict.
- Support should be provided for the development of vocational training opportunities for migrants and other vulnerable populations, to assist them

in seeking gainful employment.

- The Foreigners and International Protection Act and relevant secondary legislation should be implemented in coordination with NGOs and active stakeholders.
- The Law on Equality and Non-Discrimination needs to be enacted. More functional mechanisms such as public control are also proposed.
- Efforts should be made to solve the Kurdish question in Turkey within a political framework.
- Health-care services should be offered to migrants, including their children, even if they are residing in Turkey on irregular basis.
- Regulations need to be developed which respond better to the emerging needs of international labour migrants with irregular status.
- A more decentralized approach should be developed to the management of disasters.
- Technical guidelines and regulations should be developed on the involvement of different stakeholders in responding to conflict and natural disasters.
- Policies should be developed to prevent the restriction of the rights to organize and to take part in trade union activity.
- Policies should be developed for fighting poverty.
- The necessary policies should be developed for LGBT individuals to benefit from equal rights.
- Good governance should be promoted.
- Appropriate projects should be developed based on the findings of

research conducted in the fields of conflict and fragility.

- Projects should be developed in order to enhance awareness about conflict and fragility at local and regional levels.
- It is necessary to support the re-integration of displaced persons and seasonal workers in order to prevent potential conflicts, and to provide safety and social services for these persons during conflicts.
- The more active involvement of NGOs should be sought for efforts to meet the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups affected by conflict and fragility including natural disasters.
- Awareness-raising projects should be implemented for the sectors that are subject to discrimination for various reasons.
- Work should be carried out on the peaceful settlement of disputes, and issues related to migration and the settlements of disputes should be included in educational curricula.
- Research should be developed that handles migration as a factor of development and investigate its effects on social development.
- Agencies should work to promote the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and individuals from other vulnerable groups and to create policies that support them in obtaining legal status.
- The NGOs that provide aid for populations affected by the processes of conflict and fragility should be supported actively.
- Advocacy should be carried out to





secure more sustainable finance for NGOs active in the fields of conflict and fragility.

- A more harmonized and coordinated mechanism should be created to reduce bureaucracy during conflicts.
- In a political environment of conflict, the UN agencies should be able to maintain the principles of peace, universal human rights and

fair development, together with their supranational independence, and to resist the pressures of governments.

- Concrete mechanisms and activities should be put into practice for humanitarian aid programs, conflict resolution via peaceful methods, prevention of military interventions and resort to violence, and the return of displaced persons to their homes.

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

The answers given to the questions related to the theme of conflict and fragility contained in the public survey lend support to the opinions outlined above, considering that most of the respondents had a young and educated profile: For example:

1. 25.6% of the survey participants replied “disagree” and 36.9% replied “definitely disagree” to the statement “Sexual orientation rights will be expanded in Turkey after 2015.” 65.2% of the respondents believed that the existing inequalities and discrimination in this respect would continue in the same fashion.
2. 47.5% of the respondents replied “disagree” or “definitely disagree” to the statement “Progress will be made in relation to the prevention of the isolation of any sectors of the society based on religion, language and ethnic origin in Turkey after 2015,” whereas 32.5% responded “agree” or “definitely agree”. This finding shows that the proportion of people who believe that no progress will be achieved is higher than the proportion anticipating progress in respect of reducing this kind of isolation too.
3. 41.7% of the respondents had negative opinions, and replied “disagree” or “definitely disagree”, to the statement “The state will assume more responsibilities for the protection of political, cultural and economic rights in Turkey after 2015,” whereas 30.1% had more positive opinions and responded “agree” or “definitely agree”.
4. The responses to the statement “Progress will be achieved in Turkey after 2015 in terms of disaster and risk management” are more positive. 49.1% say that they agree or definitely agree with this statement, which suggests that there has been some progress in Turkey in the field of disaster management. 26.4% of the respondents stated that they disagreed or definitely disagreed, which shows that there are still problems in Turkey on this matter.



Meral Çatak, Instagram Campaign

9.

POPULATION DYNAMICS

1. New Realities and Perceived Challenges

An overview of the demographic trends in Turkey demonstrates the following prominent points: The fertility rate is decreasing and the population is getting older. The younger population groups still make up the greater part of the society. While the infant and child mortality rates are decreasing, the dependency rate of the elderly is increasing. Life expectancy is increasing and the proportion of the population above the age of 65 is rising.

Turkey's population today is more than 75 million. It is envisaged that the population will be 81–83 million in 2023 and 90-95 million in 2050. Even though the rate of increase is falling, the population of the country is still increasing.

With respect to the age distribution of the population, the younger population groups are still dominant. Turkey has a young population structure, and one person out of every two is

either a child or a young person. This population of children will constitute the young and old population of Turkey in the future. Currently, the elderly account for only around 7% of the population. In the year 2050, the proportion of the population who are at and above the age of 65 will be one out of five. This corresponds to nearly 19 million people.

In addition to this general picture, it must be noted that there are significant demographic differences among regions and between urban and rural areas.

The increase in the elderly population and decrease in the fertility rate have resulted in a political discourse that encourages fertility. Meanwhile, Turkey has specific characteristics not only in terms of birth and date rates but also in terms of international and national immigration movements.

In recent years, there has been a significant influx of asylum-seekers to Turkey from the countries in its region.

The migration of international workers is also rising. Mention must also be made of the internal labour migration. This internal migration of labour flows from the less developed regions to the developed Western regions. Moreover, a large mass of people in the Eastern regions were forced to evacuate their villages and migrate to other settlements on account of political turmoil and conflicts. All this migration has brought about rapid urbanization in Turkey.

Participants in the consultation process drew attention to these general demographic characteristics and for a closer look at international and internal migration movements, and underlined the importance of assessing population dynamics while determining the Post-2015 development agenda.

At the consultation meeting, a decision was taken to focus especially on the young and elderly populations and the issue of migration.

participation of young people as well as seeking to meet their needs and aspirations. Young people are autonomous individuals with their own needs and wants. Accordingly, a participatory approach should be adopted in the creation of policies for young people. To assure the participation of young people

2. Priorities for Post-2015

Importance of youth

As stated during the HABITAT Youth Consultation Meeting, an overall policy is needed for young people which is directly participative and developed in a holistic manner.

Participants argued that it is crucial for youth policies to involve the

in creation and implementation of policies for the youth, it is essential to create a platform for the representation of young people from all walks of life. However, the infrastructure, opportunities and support have to be provided to make such a platform effective. The Ministry of Youth and Sport should be an agency that creates the funds for projects, works with young people and collaborates with NGOs.

Youth unemployment

Since 2008, there have been various developments related to youth employment, including the provision of incentives. Nevertheless, unemployment in the 15-24 age group has ranged up to 28%. Participants in the HABITAT Youth Consultation Meeting emphasized the need to provide incentives that encourage entrepreneurship in order to prevent youth unemployment.

Education

The participants took the view that education, health and employment were priority social policy areas for young people. While much progress has been made in relation to primary education, they argued, policies still need to be developed targeting higher education and interruptions in the education of young people. In addition to the increasing number of universities and the rising quality of education, it was emphasized that efforts need to be made in order to educate people in line with the qualifications demanded by the labour market.

Vocational training

There was also consensus on the need to establish mechanisms to enable young people to set up their own business and become entrepreneurs, and the importance of vocational education, including training for intermediate-level professionals.

Youth, health education and reproductive health

The points raised at the meetings concerning health and protection from specific diseases can be summarized as follows: It should not be forgotten that the health of young people is also the health of adults and the elderly. The provision of comprehensive preventive and informative services should be a priority. Youth-friendly health-care services should be made available to young people, especially in the fields of adolescent health, sexual health and reproductive health (Pregnancies under the age of 18 should be dealt with separately). Human rights education and sexual health education should be structured by age group and included in formal education curricula from primary school onwards.

HIV

It was emphasized during the Draft Report presentation on March 7 that more information should be provided about HIV/AIDS. Participants in the HABITAT Youth Consultation Meeting stated that young people do not have enough information on reproductive health. Ways need to be found to access accurate information in an





Tuğçe Togay, Instagram Campaign

atmosphere of mutual trust as an alternative to Internet resources where wrong and corrupted information is easily accessed. In providing this type of information, privacy and gender rights should be respected and medical ethics observed.

Youth migration

Youth policies were not tackled significantly during the regional meetings other than the HABITAT Youth Consultation Meeting. At the Kastamonu Regional Meeting, it was argued that the young population did not have any dreams or plans associated with their future in relation to the Black Sea region; instead, the young and educated population

migrated away and the remaining elderly population naturally did not take part in employment. During the Istanbul Regional Meeting, it was stated that young people should be involved in decision-making processes as active stakeholders, and should assume a role in solving problems, rather than being seen as a danger and source of problems themselves.

Heterogeneous composition of youth

Participants in the consultation process emphasized that young people are not a homogeneous group, and emphasized the need for specific policies that take into account the special situations and

requirements of the more vulnerable groups such as young people neither in education nor in employment and married young people, as well as young people that are educated and employed. Efforts should be made, in particular, to remove the barriers in the way of access to information and services by these vulnerable groups.

Family planning, human rights and gender equality

Turkey is going through a transformation in terms of fertility. While the regional differences are huge, fertility in general is decreasing. A new, pro-natalist discourse has been launched. The policies to be developed should be based on human rights and envisage gender equality. Furthermore, they should be conducted alongside reproductive health and family planning services, and should not prevent women from participating in working life.

Policies for the elderly

Advocacy efforts should be conducted to inform people from all parts of society about ageing. Awareness should be raised about the fact that old age is not decrepitude; it is a different stage of life. Youth and old age should be assessed as parts of a

cycle of life. Long-term, sustainable structures should be set up in health and social security systems and acquired rights should be respected. Policies towards ageing should not only focus on health and social security, but should encompass all aspects of the phenomenon, and this process should be followed up through an institutionalized structure. In this context, it was proposed that bodies such as a 'National Old Age Institute' should be established.

A participant in the Kastamonu Regional Meeting commented on the need to prioritise the living conditions of the elderly in view of economic difficulties. Mention was also made of the importance of efforts to be taken to ensure quality of life for old people and prevent them from losing their connection with life.

Professional training of health care workers

A point raised during the HABITAT Youth Consultation Meeting was the need to ensure that sufficient professional employees – especially social workers and health-care personnel - are trained to work with the elderly. This perspective should be incorporated in the planning of

TURKEY IS GOING THROUGH A TRANSFORMATION OF FERTILITY... IN THIS TRANSFORMATION THE STATE BECOMES THE FACILITATOR; HOWEVER, IT IS THE SOCIETY THAT MAKES THE DECISION... FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES SHOULD CONTINUE, CONTRACEPTION METHODS SHOULD BE INEXPENSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE, GENDER EQUALITY SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED, WOMEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK AND HAVE CHILDREN AT THE SAME TIME...

An Academician

PARTICIPATORY AND INTEGRATED POLICIES THAT TARGET THE YOUTH SHOULD BE DEVELOPED; HOWEVER, WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE DIVERSITY OF THE GROUP THAT WE CALL "THE YOUTH"

A YOUNG MAN FROM, Y-PEER TÜRKIYE

education policies, so as to be able to implement policies that involve care at home or in other places. It should be possible to provide these services in an organized way. Another important topic mentioned at the same meeting was that technological progress is isolating old people from access to public services and social interaction as causing new problems.

Policy needs for the elderly population and need for data

The elderly are not a homogenous group, and participants in the consultation process spoke of a need to devise policies for specific kinds of elderly people such as widows, widowers, elderly people in rural areas, elderly people who live alone, poor elderly people and the elderly included/not included in the social security system. The implementation of these policies needs to be followed up; the policies need to be dynamic and not static. Policies should be developed on the basis of data and a more systematic information gathering process should be pursued. A number of research projects were suggested including research on gender and generations, and disability.

Mother-and child healthcare services

During the Validation Meeting the participants emphasized that family planning was a constitutional right that had to be defended. They

pointed out that a high proportion of the population is of reproductive age and that this situation would persist until 2050. They also underlined the need to develop a policy for services and information in the area of reproductive health and sexual health, and to increase the quality of the mother-and-child health-care services. During the consultation meetings, it was emphasized that it was necessary to continue family planning efforts and ensure that contraceptive methods are affordable and accessible,

Human rights and reproductive health

According to the participants in the consultation process, sexual health and reproductive health education should be included in formal education, and educational curricula should be developed for specific ages and sexes. Policies should be developed for the prevention of early marriages and pregnancies. Positive discrimination should be implemented for girls. Accessible and continuous health-care information and services in the field of reproductive health should be provided for everyone within the framework of universal human rights. At the Istanbul Regional Meeting attention was drawn to the importance of these rights and services, especially in the context of women and abortion. These services should take account of the privacy of men and women.

Internal migration, rapid urbanization and the vacation of rural areas

The dynamics of internal migration need to be analysed very well and policies for turning internal migration into an opportunity should be developed in the form of "guidelines for internal migration".

Data resources should be created to make it possible to predict changes in the structure of internal migration. Assessments should be made of the additional burden imposed by migration on education and health-care services in the places receiving migrants, and the infrastructure in these places should be reinforced. Support should be provided for the "adaptation" of people arriving in urban areas via internal migration, especially in terms of education and religion. In this respect, Turkey is going through a rapid urbanization process.

As stated during the Kastamonu and Kütahya Regional Meetings, metropolises such as Ankara are socially and economically attractive, and this encourages people in cities and regions other than the metropolises – such as Kastamonu - to migrate. During the Kütahya Regional Meeting, it was underlined that the young population, and especially the young female population, living in rural areas prefer not to work in agriculture, while the educated and qualified young population migrates as part of the brain drain. It was underlined that rates of divorce and of

drug addiction and consequent crime have increased in the region due to the lack of the necessary infrastructure and social and cultural opportunities, even though the region has economic potential. Attention was drawn to the need to improve infrastructure and enliven social life, and to provide accommodation in the city for young people and students. It was therefore proposed that opportunities should be created for reverse migration and that development agencies should be strengthened. As added by the Governor of Kastamonu during the Kastamonu Regional Meeting, the young population in the region is decreasing and birth rates are falling. Schools and hospitals in some cities are being closed due to the falling population. Young people are migrating away due to the deficiency of infrastructure and lack of opportunities for social life. The new infra-structural services are targeted at development dependent on received migration and population increase.

Participants in the Istanbul and Gaziantep Regional Meetings complained about the problems caused by the uneducated and unqualified population received via migration; however, they stated their belief that these conditions can be reversed via the creation of employment and education possibilities. During the Gaziantep Regional Meeting, discussion also focused on the urbanization issues caused by slum areas with inadequate urban planning, transport



and infrastructure, leading to the “otherization” of the people living there.

During the İstanbul Regional Meeting, participants discussed the excessive population density – including its relation with the earthquake risk – and the new, consumption-based lifestyle as well as the lack of research and necessary information on the reasons for current migration. There was support for investments which would target reverse migration (from large cities to other regions), coinciding with the suggestions made during the regional meetings in Kütahya and Kastamonu.

Forced migration

Another point on which the participants were in accord was the need to devise special policies targeting women, young people and children- the groups that are most affected by migration. Special attention also needs to be paid to people subjected to forced migration. Today, it is possible to speak about the second generation of the people who were forced to migrate. In this respect, too, Turkey is going through a rapid urbanization process. The disadvantages of these groups, as compared to other groups that migrated within the country,

should be recognised. It is necessary to increase the number of experts and build the capacity of the organizations working in this field.

Migration management

With respect to internal migration, it is important to consider the places and people who are left behind as much as the migrants and their places of destinations, and to develop policies accordingly. Policies geared towards balancing migration should be developed. Agriculture and animal husbandry are also negatively affected when working people migrate to specific regions and cities.

Seasonal migration

As stated during the Gaziantep Regional and HABITAT Youth Consultation Meetings, the situation of seasonal, informal workers, especially in agriculture, needs to be tackled separately, with the aid of accurate information for use in development plans and local policies. The internal migration and international aspects of seasonal labour must also be underlined. A migration policy should be developed which encompasses the foreign migrants headed by agricultural workers and those engaged in child care and the care of ill or elderly persons.

“WHEN EXAMINING THE ISSUE OF IMMIGRATION ONE ALWAYS EXAMINES THOSE WHO LEAVE, THOSE WHO STAY SHOULD ALSO BE EXAMINED AND INCLUDED IN POLICIES

AN ACADEMICIAN FROM AKDENIZ UNIVERSITY,



3. Recommendations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

A human rights-based approach should be adopted towards all groups targeted as part of development, especially young people, the elderly, internal migrants and the population of reproductive age.

- A National Framework on Internal Displacement should be adopted in line with the Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement (OCHA, 2008)
- Sufficient attention should be paid to issues related to the quantity and quality of information and services for developing human capital, and to the accessibility thereof, for all groups targeted by development policies, especially young people, the elderly, internal migrants and the population of reproductive age.
- Socio - economic assessments of both the destination the departure points of internal migration should be conducted and policies should be developed to balance migration.
- Special policies targeting women, young people and children - the groups that are most affected by migration.
- The number of experts working in this field and to build the capacity of institutions in order to achieve these objectives.
- Politicians, policy-makers and non-governmental organizations need to adopt planning processes based on data. In the light of the population dynamics, National,

regional and local policy-makers should be provided with information about the analysis and areas of use of demographic data.

- Urban data systems should be created which make it possible to analyse the urban dynamics through the various dimensions of urbanization, especially migration.
- A gender-based perspective should be adopted; discourses, plans and policies should be in line with this perspective.
- Needs assessments should take account of the diversity and of the specific characteristics of different groups.
- Specific policies should be adopted for the more vulnerable and marginalised groups within each target group.
- During the HABITAT Youth Consultation Meeting, it was emphasized that regions vary in terms of education, employment, services, opportunities and inequalities and that these factors should be kept in mind while developing policies.
- The quality of pre-school education should needed to be enhanced, and that opportunities for education abroad should be enlarged and promoted.
- Even though life is a cycle, the challenges and opportunities specific to every age group should be addressed individually. Communication among

generations needs to be improved and mechanisms for should be created for the taking decisions through mutual interaction, should be created

- Health policies (for example, with respect to conditions such as

Alzheimer's disease), social policies and economic policies (for the population over 65 who can work) which respond to the needs of the elderly population, should be devised and implemented.

ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

1. 8.9% of the survey participants replied "definitely agree" to the statement "The awareness of young people in relation to adolescent health, sexual health and reproductive health will be higher in Turkey after 2015," and 30% responded with "agree". 38.9% of the survey participants believed that there was a need to "raise the awareness of young people about adolescent health, reproductive health and sexual health", whereas 36.2% of them did not agree with this opinion. Taking into account the proportion of people who were unsure, which was 22.8%, it emerges that the rate of those who believe in the need for education in this field is not very high.

2. Negative expectations about the Post-2015 period emerge more clearly from the responses to the statement "Progress will be made in dealing with problems related to migration to the cities for economic reasons in Turkey after 2015". While only 25.8% of respondents agreed with this statement (7.5% "definitely agree" + 18.3% "agree"), as many as 47% (27.3% + 19.7%) disagreed while those who were not sure in their opinions made up a large group of 25.8%.



IV. ISSUES MOST PROMINENTLY RAISED DURING the CONSULTATIONS

Gender

Inequalities emerged as one of the most important priority areas during the consultation, information meetings. Girls, and women; gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transvestites face discrimination and are subjected to violence as they take part in social, economic and political life. It was emphasized by all stakeholders during all meetings that the inequalities faced by these groups based on their sex and sexual orientation cause significant barriers in access to fundamental human rights. These inequalities and forms of discrimination are not limited to the difficulties and barriers which the members of these groups face in accessing fundamental human rights and social rights, but also surface in every aspect of daily life including family relations, work relations, social relations, marriage and sexuality. Furthermore, the individuals may be subjected to violence due to their gender and sexual orientation. In light of this, gender has emerged as an important issue in mainstreaming equality. In the Post-2015 development agenda, the empowerment of women and the conduct of an effective struggle against gender discrimination needs be treated as a priority area per se, cutting across all other areas of development.

Early Childhood Development

Early childhood development and pre-school education issues consistently brought up during the consultation process during discussions of thematic areas such as education, inequalities and health validates the importance of the role which it plays in overcoming inequalities. Early childhood development is a holistic approach that pays attention to the interaction between the child and his/her habitat, and determines the entire route followed by the holistic development of the child. In this respect, it includes quality health and nutrition services, meticulous quality care, social and emotional interaction that supports early emotional and mental development, learning opportunities and protection from violence, abuse and neglect.

Early childhood development contributes significantly to personal and social development. At the level of the individual, it contributes to the most healthy and natural realization of the physical, psycho-motor, emotional, intellectual, linguistic, social and spiritual development of children. Early childhood development targets, first and foremost, the roots of social inequality, intervening to prevent inequalities at the earliest possible stage, providing a sustainable and

systematic solution for fighting these inequalities. Investment in the early childhood period does not only raise the levels of health, nutrition and education of the next generation, but also helps to empower women, reduce violence, increase environmental awareness and prevent the transfer of poverty among generations, hence resulting in more productive societies.

Youth

Turkey has a young population; the median age is 29. The lack of policies for this group to enjoy their human rights in the field of education, health, employment and participation have been the focus of consultations for Post-2015 development agenda for Turkey. Young people need good mechanisms to enable them to access health services, to make the transition from school to work and to obtain work commensurate with human dignity. They need more opportunities for participation in political and social life. Young people are observed to be experiencing a crisis of education, a crisis of employment, and a crisis of participation.

For the success of the Post-2015 development agenda, it will be necessary to ensure that policies are developed with a holistic approach and also taking into account the diversity of the young population in terms of gender, ethnic origin, education, disability, geography and place of residence.

Persons with Disabilities

The difficulties, discriminatory practices and inequalities faced by persons with disabilities in different fields of life were among the priority areas emphasized by all stakeholders during the consultation meetings. The physical environment, facilities and infrastructure are currently out of line with the requirements of persons with disabilities, negatively affecting their participation in urban life as well as their access to fundamental services such as health and education. People with disabilities encounter different difficulties during their participation in social, economic and political life, and are not adequately represented in decision-making mechanisms. Public awareness of the problems and difficulties experienced by persons with disabilities needs to be increased in order to fight prejudices. In addition, an effective struggle can only be waged on all the issues faced by people with disabilities by demonstrating the problems which they experience in different stages of life (childhood, youth, adulthood, old age, etc.) and in various fields (education, health, employment, social and political participation, etc.) and devising social policies that directly target all these areas of difficulty. Social policies are the key to eliminating the practices that complicate equal access by people with disabilities to their rights. Mainstreaming all the issues related to persons with disabilities in the context of the Post-2015 development goals will be an important step in combating inequalities.

V. CONCLUSION

Turkey is in a demographic transition, a process that will only happen once in its history. Monitoring and defining the demographic change processes of Turkey is of utmost importance in the development of the policies that will be pursued in the future, mainly the development policies and policies in many diverse areas including education, labour, health, environment, food security, population movements, urbanization and social security. It is necessary to evaluate how the changing demographics and

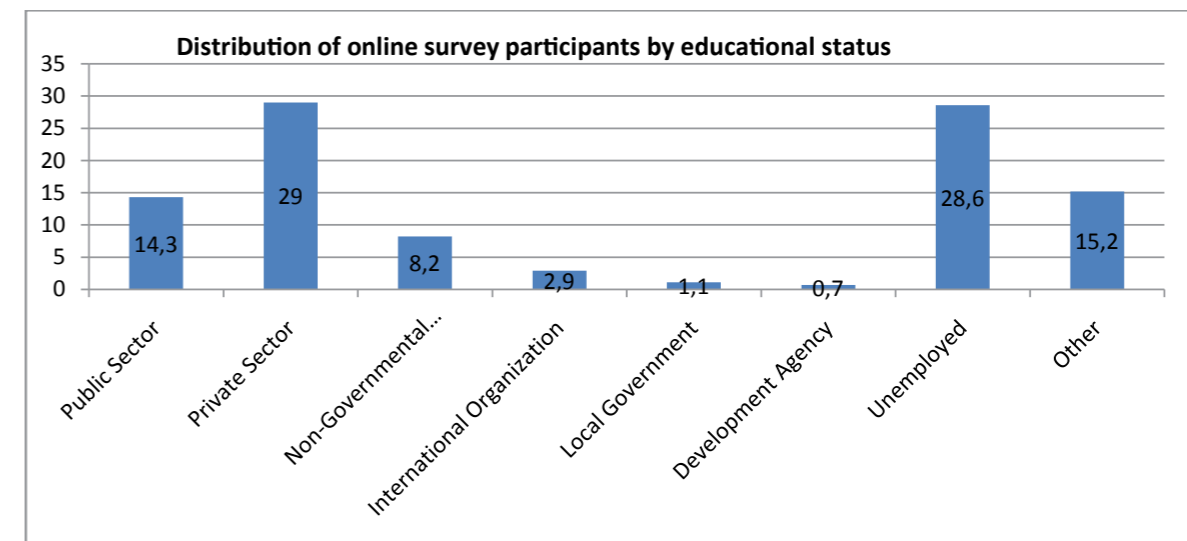
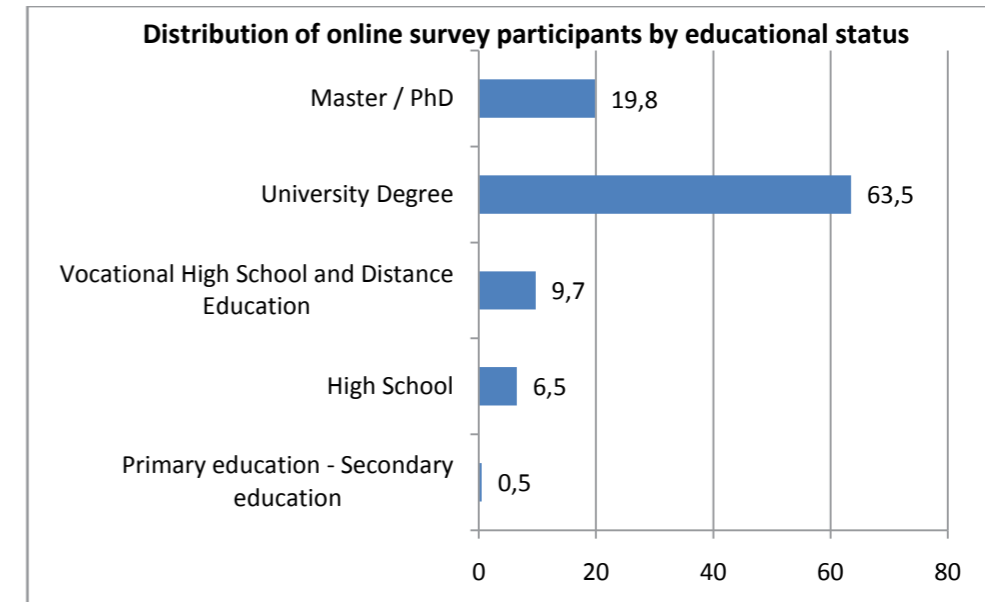
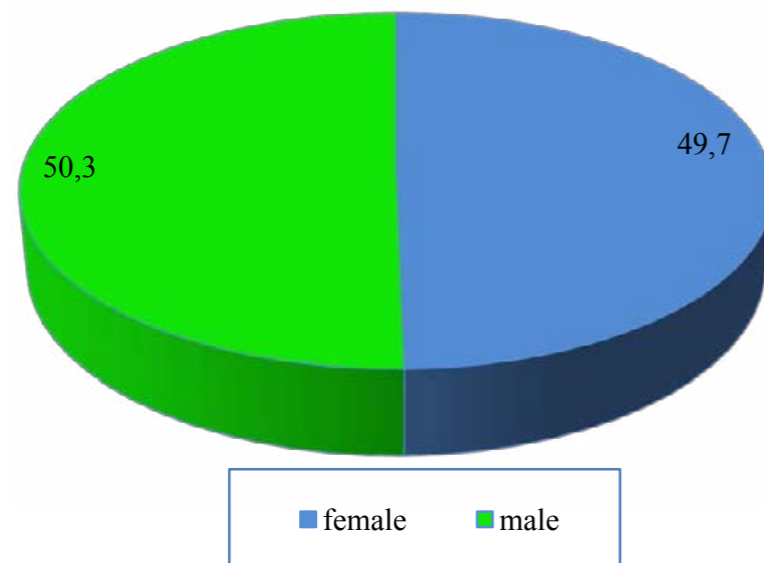
age structure of Turkey will conform to the existing structures and services, and how this transformation can be turned into a gain for the country.

While so doing, the legal frameworks, policies and programmes formulated and implemented should be based on the human rights based approach, which requires duty bearers to fulfil their responsibilities and right holders to demand their rights, eventually benefiting the community as a whole.

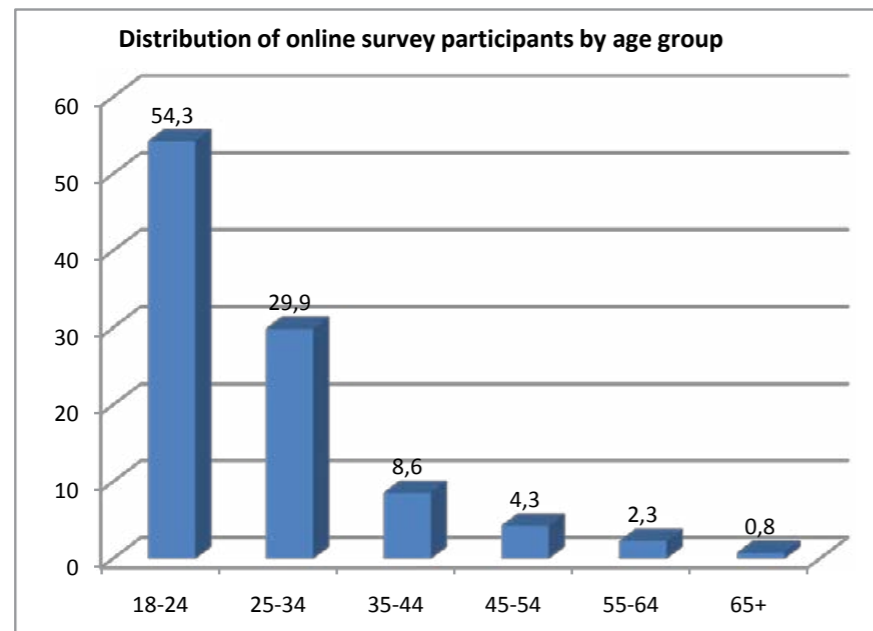


ANNEX 1: SOCIO - DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS of the RESPONDENTS of the ONLINE SURVEY in Graphics

Distribution of online survey participants by sex

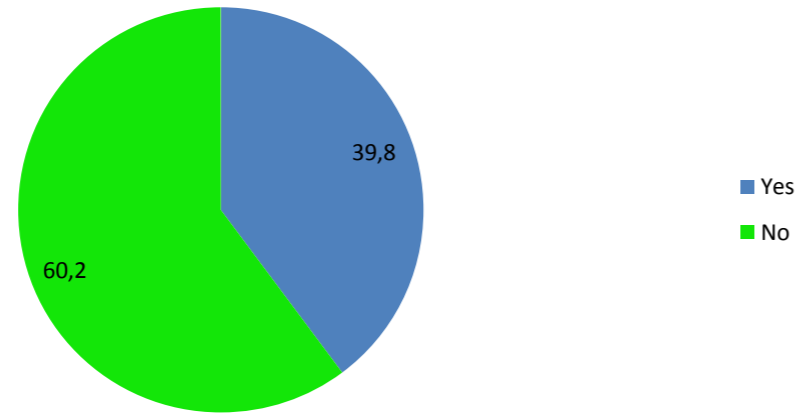


Distribution of online survey participants by age group

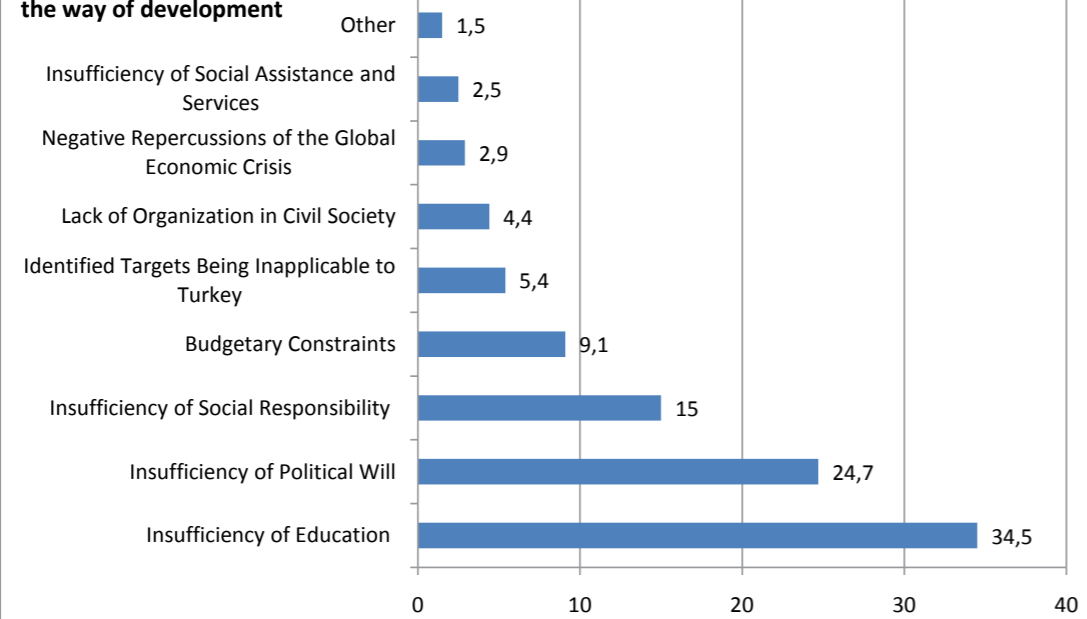




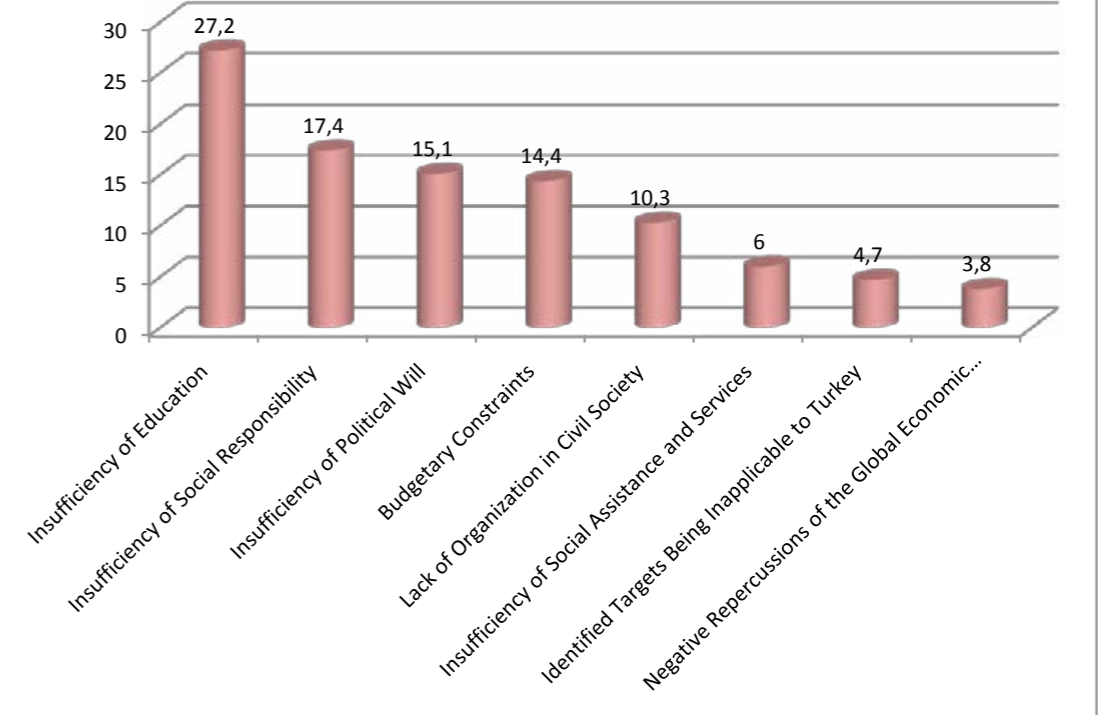
Distribution of online survey participants by awereness of the United Nations Millenium Development Goals



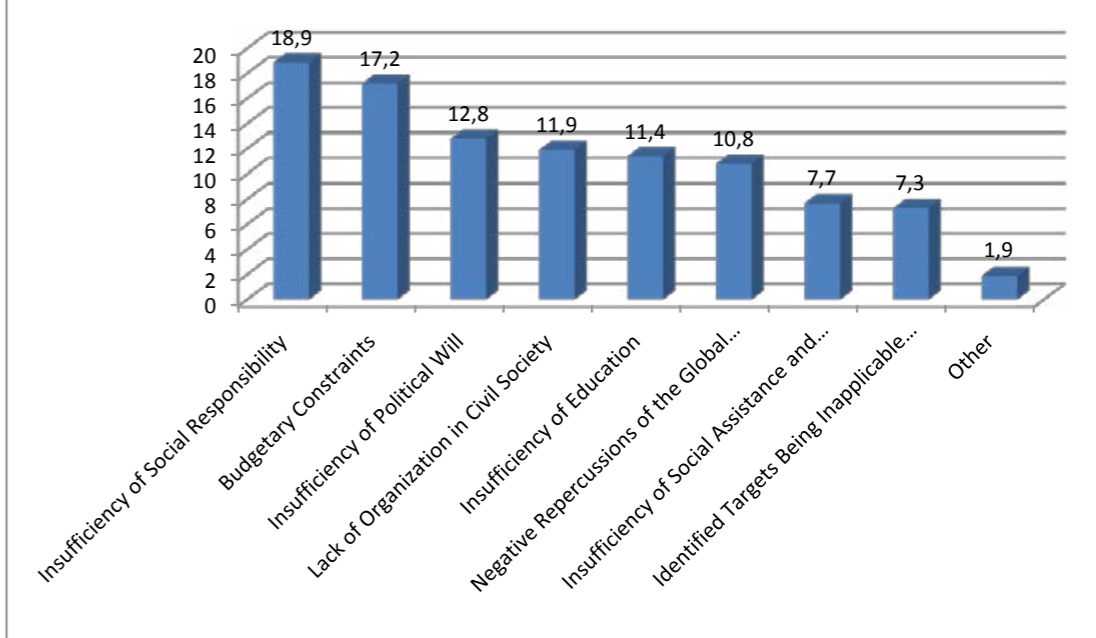
Issues perceived by online survey participants as the most important barriers faced by Turkey in the way of development



Issues perceived by online survey participants as important barriers faced by Turkey in the way of development



Issues perceived by online survey participants as only slightly important barriers faced by Turkey in the way of development



ANNEX 2: İSTANBUL DECLARATION

Early Childhood Development In A Post-2015 Development Agenda

Istanbul Declaration

We, representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) together with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM), in partnership with the United Nations Turkey, World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP), OMEP/Turkey, The Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development (CGECCD), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), joined by advocates, family representatives, social, health and education service providers, academics, NGO's convening in Istanbul on 24-25 January 2013, building on the normative frameworks specifically the Millennium Declaration, a World Fit for Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and using the power of local governments and collective responsibility of municipalities and societies, **pledge to prioritise Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have widely benefited children, both boys and girls, but there is major unfinished business, widened inequalities and disparities as well as emerging and neglected issues that must be addressed boldly in the Post-2015 Development Agenda to ensure a world fit for children.

The UN Secretary-General's Status of the CRC report focusing specifically on early childhood and adoption of the Third Committee Omnibus Resolution (A/65/452) at the UNGA 65th Session reaffirms the commitment of State Parties to promote and protect the rights of children, including specific recommendations and strategies for implementing child rights in early childhood.

Investment in promotive and protective ECD policies and programs of good quality targeting young children 0-8 years, especially the most disadvantaged reduces preventable risks due to poverty, ill-health, malnutrition and inadequate levels of care and intellectual stimulation. Investments in accessible good quality early and primary learning environments improves the efficiency of the education system by reducing repetition and drop-out, which leads to dramatically better completion rates and improves achievement, especially for girls and marginalised groups. This can break the cycle of inequity contributing to better health, higher educational attainment and efficiencies, and greater success in life.

Despite the growing evidence on the efficacy of ECD policies and programs and enhanced resources on improved education, health, and nutrition outcomes for children, over 200 million children under 5 years in low and middle-income countries

will not reach their developmental potential, with only 19 countries out of 68 with high child mortality rates able to meet MDG targets by 2015. Currently, 64% of young children in developing countries have no access to early childhood programs – 61% in Asia and 86% in Sub Saharan Africa.

Investment in ECD is one of the most effective instruments to accelerate and achieve the sustainable and secure future we want for all children. The evidence is clear: the estimated benefit of investment in improving just one component of ECD – preschool enrolment – to 25% could generate approximately US\$10.6 billion, while an increase to 50% could generate economic benefits of US\$33.7 billion, with a benefit-to-cost ratio estimated to range from 6.4 to 17.6. Governments and donors must invest in strengthening quality ECD programs and communities.

For this we urge you to join the Call to Action to:

- Ensure funded, inclusive and integrated ECD policies and promotive and protective programs in every country by 2020 for all young children 0-8 years, especially the most disadvantaged
- Ensure national and sub-national data is routinely collected to monitor trends and disparities in ECD and generate evidence-based knowledge to inform budgeting and policies
- Support the expansion of a global alliance with a portal and clearinghouse for knowledge generation, sharing, dissemination, research development and networking
- Create an innovative global funding mechanism for Early Childhood Development that will support the above at all level including increased role of local governance.



