



**PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Social Cohesion between Syrian and Host Communities in Turkey through Women's Empowerment</b>
<b>Date &amp; Venue</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> of July 2020</b> <b>Zoom Meeting</b>
<b>Participants</b>	<p><i>Ms. Adalet Budak Akbaş, Head of Humanitarian and Social Development Department, GAP RDA</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Akın Yumuş, Expert, Ministry of Family Labor and Social Services, DG Status of Women</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Melda Melleş, Expert, Presidency of Turkey, Strategy and Budget Office</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Mustafa Ali Yurdupak, Portfolio Manager, Inclusive Sustainable Growth Portfolio, UNDP Turkey</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Aslı Çakın Dağlı, Project Manager, Inclusive Sustainable Growth Portfolio, UNDP Turkey</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Büşra Çelik Çelen, Project Associate, Inclusive Sustainable Growth Portfolio, UNDP Turkey</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Nur Akıncı, Communication Associate, Inclusive Sustainable Growth Portfolio, UNDP Turkey</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Aslı Aygün Gürsoy, Project Assistant, Inclusive Sustainable Growth Portfolio, UNDP Turkey</i></p>
<b>Agenda Items</b>	<p>* Opening Speech</p> <p>* Social Cohesion between Syrian and Host Communities in Turkey through Women's Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Assessment of the Current Situation</li><li>- Realized Activities</li><li>- Planned Activities</li><li>- Proposed Changes for Annual Work Plan</li><li>- Time Extension of the Project</li></ul> <p>* Decisions</p>

## **Highlights of the Meeting**

Mr. Yurdupak started the meeting with an opening speech and thanked the PSC members and the implementation partners for the excellent co-operation, partnership and support they have been providing during the project implementation. Mr. Yurdupak summarized the overall aim of the project, pilot provinces and the components of the project.

Ms. Çakın Dağlı presented the realized activities under each component of the project so far and shared the planned activities as follows;

- Starting the activities of Kilis Elderly Day-Care Centre
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Emotional Healing Talks
- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of Webinars for elderly care service providers; 5 webinars on the topics of Professional Adaptation and Coping with Stress, Professional Practice with Elderly and Disabled-Case Management, Professional Resilience, Geriatric Assessment and the Art of Life in the Covid-19
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Webinars for the elderly; 5 webinars on the topics of Developing the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of the elderly and the art of life
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of Webinars for the families of the elderly; 5 webinars on the topics of Family Relations with the Elderly, Needs Assessment and Intergenerational Solidarity, Being Relative of an Alzheimer's Patient's, Institutional Services for the Elderly Supporting Family, Coping with Care Burden and Stress in the Family Care Provider and the Art of Life
- Designing a volunteerism program that will include young people studying at the Kilis 7 Aralık University, Elderly Care Program
- Designing an Entrepreneurship Training Program that will support local women entrepreneurs in 5 pilot provinces and initial activities for establishment of GAP Entrepreneurship Academy which will be designed as a mentoring academy
  
- Continue to work on the Inclusive Business Models
- Working for youth and children with disabilities
- Women's cooperatives meetings and experience sharing workshops
- Carrying out project development activities for scaling-up and dissemination of the projects

## **Recommended Changes on AWP**

Ms. Çakın Dağlı presented the proposed changes on some of the annual work plan activities and on behalf of UNDP Turkey and GAP RDA as follows;

1. It is recommended to change the activity *1.13: Design and implementation of micro-grant programmes targeting women entrepreneurs and/or cooperatives* as 1.13: Designing an entrepreneurship program and working on to establish an 'entrepreneurship academy' where women can find mentorship and related support mechanisms for their idea and how to apply them and manage the application and implementation processes

2. It is recommended to remove the activity as there are strategies created by many institutions; *2.1: Design of territory/target province based inter-cultural and social integration strategies along with time bound action plans*
3. It is recommended to add Child Development Centre to include children for the activity *2.6: Design and implementation of capability development and social-cultural interaction programmes for Syrian and host community youngsters through the Youth Centres*
4. It is recommended to add children with disabilities to the activity *3.2.b: Design and implementation of a pilot programme for the disabled Syrian and host community youth on social development*
5. Due to the current global and national agenda, it is recommended to replace the activity *3.5: Delivery of professional social care and social support services regarding the prevention of drug use through awareness raising activities, trainings* with *3.5: Delivery of public health, social care and social support services regarding the prevention of Covid-19 pandemic through awareness raising activities, trainings etc.*
6. Reviewing indicators regarding the changes.
7. Ms. Çakın Dağlı also indicated the target rate of the Syrian's was 50% for the project activities but it remained 30-35% in total for all project activities due to Covid-19. To reach the target rate of Syrian's and continue to the activities postponed due to Covid-19, it is suggested that the project shall be extended till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## **Discussions**

Mr. Yumuş recommended keeping the activity 1.13 highlighting the effectiveness of the grant programs. Ms. Budak Akbaş explained why it is suggested to change the activity as, a search conference was held to hear the needs of Syrian's and host communities women from themselves and the local authorities (including TOBB Council of Women Entrepreneurs, Development Agencies, local NGOs, Family Support Centres (ADEMs)) at December 2019 and it was concluded that establishing a Women Entrepreneurship Academy will be more beneficial for all women rather than providing micro-grant to 10 women. All participants built a consensus on this issue after the detailed justification.

Mr. Yumuş expressed the view that in the case of budget availability, activities related to the prevention of drug use should remain in the activity 3.5 as well as the addition of public health activities within the Covid-19 framework.

Mr. Yumuş suggested using local radio stations such as TRT Çukurova Radio and TRT Arabic to reach Syrian's.

Mr. Yumuş highlighted the importance of working on Women's Cooperatives and can be worked with Prof. Dr. Bülent Gülçubuk, Ankara University, Faculty of Agriculture. An EU funded project related to the Women's Cooperatives that will be implemented by the Ministry of Family Labor and Social Services will start next year and can cooperate with the project as well.

Ms. Melleş stated the importance of establishing an online sales platform for women in the region to reach the market in the post-COVID-19 period.

As a result, the following decisions have been agreed for effective project implementation:

## **Decisions**

1. It will be requested to extend the project duration till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the necessary documents will be prepared by the UNDP Turkey Project Team and shared with the BPPS team.
2. For the above-mentioned activities children will be included as target groups within the women, youth and the elderly.
3. Revision of the expected targets to be achieved in the indicators for the expected outcomes will be made as follows;
  - # Syrian and host community women benefitted from replicable and scalable social and intercultural activities such as study tours, cultural interaction activities, ateliers, sports activities etc. Target was to reach 2500 women, revised as 750 women due to Covid-19.
  - # of entrepreneurs/entrepreneur groups financially and/or technically supported by the Project. Target was to reach 10 groups, revised as 0 group and the indicator will be changed to the establishment of an entrepreneurship academy.
4. All recommended changes on the Annual Work Plan have been accepted by the PSC Committee and related revision will be made on AWP by UNDP Turkey Project Team.