



MAY HIGHLIGHTS:

Until May 2015, agencies are mainly focused on designing and preparation stages of the livelihood interventions. UNDP will focus on local strategies and initiatives that relate to livelihoods in order to strengthen job creation/labour demand and empowerment opportunities/labour supply. Currently designing projects and programmes which aim relieving the socio-economic impacts of the Syrian crises on the host communities located in the Southeast Anatolia Region of Turkey. ILO will support policy development to ensure and enhance decent employment opportunities and livelihoods in host communities. UNHCR is partnering up with NGO's on language courses and vocational trainings. UNIDO on the other hand designing program on equipping the refugees with vocational skills for the garment sector is approved.

In Mersin province, IOM continued its support to Syria Social Gathering for language and vocational activities. Language activities included: TOMER, English, and Arabic for host community and YOS. Since the beginning of the year, 6,750 Syrians have participated in these courses.

The Temporary Protection Regulation issued by the Government, elaborated in close collaboration with UNHCR, governs that foreigners benefiting from Temporary Protection can apply for work permits in the sectors and professions to be determined by the Council of Ministers. This development is instrumental in ensuring access to employment and self-reliance of Syrian refugees. The secondary legislation to complement this provision of the TP Regulation with regards to procedures and principles, and with clarity on the sectors, is anticipated to enter into force after June 2015.

In this context, UN agencies and World Bank, in cooperation with the Government have been conducting several assessments on relevant topics on Syrian refugees. Building on a preliminary study on the current situation and the inter-agency response on access to labour market done by a Livelihoods Consultant in early 2015, UNHCR Turkey is in the process of recruiting a new 6-month Livelihoods Consultant to develop a multi-annual strategy.

The ILO is committed to support the crisis response in Turkey through field studies and analysis, the identification of employment and training opportunities, and the promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work – for both refugees and host communities affected by the crisis. With this aim the ILO Office for Turkey has intensified its efforts to provide ILO inputs to UN3RP (in particular on the issues of livelihoods, protection and education) and has been working on social integration and inclusion issues that involve the elimination of child labour, women's empowerment, and youth employment endeavours, etc. The ILO will use its own resources in Turkey for the initial work, which focuses on three interlinked components: capacity building, improving the knowledge base and local economic development. Together, these will provide the necessary groundwork and an enabling environment for extended technical support to medium- and long-term programmes, using the same components and drawing on wider communication and development partnership opportunities. The preparatory work is in progress and it is expected to start up the referred interventions by June 1, 2015.

UNDP is currently working on a project aiming to support the occupational skills and access to labour market for Syrians under temporary protection, with the EU in Gaziantep, in industrial and service sectors.

UNIDO carried out a field mission to the Harran Camp in cooperation with UNHCR. The field observation has confirmed the need for such a program. Currently the procurement is ongoing related to the necessary equipment. AFAD will determine the camps to be equipped based on UNIDO's available program budget. UNIDO proposed AFAD to start the training in camps with workshops that are not currently fully operational. Furthermore, the situation is much more critical for women, taking into consideration the usual gender related problems that are aggravated because of their refugee status and lack of income. The implementation will start as of April in the provinces of Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş and Şanlıurfa.

UNDP conducted a skills mapping exercise to assess the occupational skills of the Syrians under temporary protection in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa. The target groups of the field survey are (i) Syrians under temporary protection off-camps and (ii) related NGOs, public institutions, businessmen associations and chambers in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa. The survey composed of (ii) face-to-face interviews of a total of 4,000 respondents (1,992 Males and 2,008 Females) from 1,000 households and (iii) 24 in-depth interviews with the target groups (6 in Şanlıurfa and 6 in Gaziantep). The exercise has been finalized and reached up to 4,000 individuals both in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa Provinces. The exercise is focusing on industrial and service sector and results of the exercise will feed into the pipeline projects which aims at enhancing vocational and occupational skills of the Syrians under temporary protection and their integration into the local labor markets.

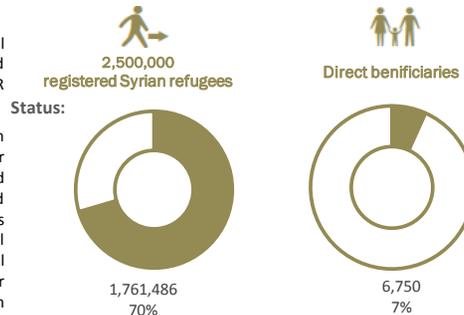
The occupational skills research and study will be shared with task force and livelihoods working group. The months of April and May were used for fact finding and situation analysis. The activities will be expedited as of June.



Syrian refugees are benefiting from the vocational training materials provided by UNHCR to training centers in 13 camps as of mid-April 2015. Harran camp, Şanlıurfa, Turkey. Photo: © S.Unal/UNHCR

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



6,750 beneficiaries received language training in Arabic, English and Turkish since the beginning of 2015.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

In the absence of an enabling environment for livelihoods for Syrians, job opportunities and services to improve employability are also limited. This situation impact particularly women and youth, who are the most at risk to engage in exploitative and abusive work, including prostitution, and other negative coping mechanisms. In parallel, the jobs that Syrian refugees manage to find are usually informal and insecure, and facilitate - at times - child labour. Some sources report that the daily fees for seasonal work have reduced to one fifth of the previous levels, which were already unacceptably low for host communities before the crisis.

Additionally, the cost of living in the border provinces increased significantly for both communities as rental costs and commodity prices grew (in some cases more than 50 per cent increase). This economic hardship, along with other social issues, weakened the social fabric and undermined social cohesion between refugees and impacted communities, particularly in 2014.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) developed the normative framework that will enable the access to legal forms of work for approval by the Council of Ministers. This framework will be critical for designing employment support interventions. The 3RP partners will therefore support the GoT in these endeavours including child labour.

UNDP will focus on local strategies and initiatives that relate to livelihoods in order to strengthen job creation/labour demand and empowerment opportunities/labour supply. ILO together with the MoLSS, social partners and relevant 3RP partners will support policy development to ensure and enhance decent employment opportunities and livelihoods in host communities and address unacceptable forms of work including child labour. These interventions will be built on assessments of skillsets of Syrians as well as the labour demand with a view to design and implement employment services. Advocacy efforts will target Syrians for awareness raising on employment opportunities, and local authorities for ensuring the implementation of labour regulations and law, with a focus on reducing the worst forms of labour.

TURKEY RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO MAY 2015

