

**LIVELIHOODS SECTOR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
Gaziantep
Minutes of Meeting**

Date:	5 April 2018
Venue/Location:	Gaziantep UN House (Kaymakam İsmail Paşa Sokak Bahçelievler Mahallesi No.10 Şahinbey/Gaziantep)
Participants:	Present: United Nations Development Programme, International Organization for Migration, Concern Worldwide, GIZ, Gaziantep Chamber of Industry, World Food Programme, Turkish Red Crescent, Al Resala Foundation, International Blue Crescent, Rizk Professional Development/Syrian Forum, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Agenda:

- 1. Welcome and the Introduction of Participants**
 - Overview of the Livelihoods Sector Strategy
- 2. Overview of 2018-2019 3RP Livelihoods Sector Response**
 - Overview of Sector Strategy
- 3. Highlights of March STF Outcomes**
 - Social Cohesion
 - Tracking of Public Institutional Funding
- 4. Planned Activities/Projects at National and Regional Level**
- 5. Participants' Highlights**

**Discussions:
(by Agenda)**

1. Welcome and the Introduction of Participants

It has been noted that it is the first meeting of 2018 on Livelihoods Sector Technical Working Group in Turkey. The reason of the delay has been stated that UNDP is still in the process of recruiting someone responsible from coordinating the meetings. New project assistants of UNDP Gaziantep Office Fatih Resul Kılınç and Adile Şahin were introduced to the participants. Participants introduced themselves to each other.

2. Over Overview of 2018-2019 3RP Livelihoods Sector Response

- Overview of the Livelihoods Sector Strategy (Hamit Doğan, UNDP)

Mr Doğan has claimed that the livelihoods sector as a humanitarian issue is becoming a developmental issue; therefore, it is getting more important. Mr Doğan has noted that the donors have been financing short term projects with very small budgets. With MADAD project however, Mr Doğan has reported that this trend is changing, and donors are now funding long term projects with generous budgets. While conducting projects related to livelihood sector Mr Doğan has emphasized that humanitarian organizations came a long way in understanding that projects should abide by relevant legislations in Turkey and recognized the importance of Turkish proficiency and social cohesion for the success of livelihood projects.

3. Highlights of March STF Outcomes

This item was expected to be carried by Mr Enver Emre Aykın from UNDP Ankara office via Skype call. However, because of the technical difficulties, this item is postponed to the next livelihood sector technical sector meeting.

4. Planned Activities/Projects at National and Regional Level

Each participant explained past and current projects that their organizations have been undertaking on the livelihoods sector as well as challenges and cooperation between NGOs and governmental organizations.

- International Organization for Migration (Jamil Awan)

Mr Awan has informed the participants that IOM has started to work last year with Syrian beneficiaries on livelihoods intervention. Mr Awan has stated that the project IOM implements on livelihood sector has three components. These are “**Job Placement**”, “**Entrepreneurship Training Grant**” and “**In-kind Grant**”.

Mr Awan has told that under the “**Job Placement**” component, 103 Syrians Under Temporary Protection (SuTP) have been placed into jobs in pharmaceutical, manufacturing and food sector. This component is implemented in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, and Hatay provinces.

It has been noted that the second component of the project, which is the “**In-kind Grant**”, focuses on people who are skilled and exercising their skills inside Syria. They are willing to work; however, they are unemployed due to the lack of equipment that

they need to perform their professions. These people are not trained by the project as they are already experienced in their respective professions. 960 people have benefited from this component.

Focusing on maturing nascent ideas, the third component is “**Entrepreneurship Training Grant**” designed to provide training for those who have innovative ideas and are willing to launch their own businesses. This component depends upon the partnership of Turkish and Syrian communities so that they work together to mature their ideas. Therefore, half of the beneficiaries are Turkish, and the other half is

composed of Syrians. The trainings for this component have taken place in Gaziantep, İzmir, and Şanlıurfa.

- **Rizk Professional Development/Syrian Forum (Anas Kaiss Al Sheikh)**

Mr Sheikh has stated that Rizk Professional Development has placed 12,860 into jobs in 2017. Mr Sheikh has informed about a culture project which was implemented with GIZ on work culture courses. The project has been concluded, yet, it may be extended to 2019.

Funded by GIZ, Rizk Professional Development has placed 650 SuTP in the project called “**3 Million Syrian Refugees and 3 Million Trees**”, which aims to contribute to afforestation efforts in Turkey. It has been stated that the project is about to be finalized, however, it may be extended.

Mr Sheikh has announced that an agreement with Gaziantep Chamber of Industry has been signed for a cash for work project funded by GIZ. The project is in the process of selecting beneficiaries.

- **IBC (Alper Mavi)**

Mr Mavi has announced that IBC has signed a protocol with the Ministry of National Education. As part of the protocol, IBC will provide vocational courses in different provinces such as Gaziantep, Konya, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, and Mersin.

- **GIZ (Ali Aslan)**

Mr Aslan has noted that there are currently 2 different vocational training components that GIZ is implementing, which are “**Cash for Training**” and “**Cash for Work**”.

Under the “Cash for Training” component, 5000 beneficiaries benefited from courses provided as part of the project. Under this component, Mr Aslan said that beneficiaries receive half of the minimum wage for an over period of 3 months.

“Cash for Work” component has reached to 7000 beneficiaries over the last one and half year. Beneficiaries in this component have work permit and receive stipend at the level of minimum wage for a period of time between 3 to 6 months.

Mr Aslan has stated that GIZ also undertakes a project on afforestation. At the end of the project, “**Peace Forrest**” was opened with the participation of the German

Ambassador to Turkey. Mr Aslan mentioned that Fatma Şahin, the Mayor of Gaziantep, has demonstrated her interest in this project and wants the project to continue.

Mr Aslan announced that a small, yet very impactful project called “**Ruhsatım**”, which aims to register unregistered businesses into legal business framework, has successfully been completed. 217 beneficiaries have been part of this project. In the second phase of the project, it is estimated that at least 400 beneficiaries will benefit from this project. After the success of this project, Mr Aslan stated that GIZ plans to implement the project in Kahramanmaraş and İstanbul.

Last, Mr Aslan revealed that GIZ is conducting another project with the Chamber of Industry, however, the details of the project are not concluded yet.

- **Gaziantep Chamber of Industry_(Mustafa Al-Dabbagh)**

Mr Al-Dabbagh expressed that the doors of Gaziantep Chamber of Industry are open to everyone who would like to cooperate on the livelihoods affairs. It is highlighted that the Chamber has one of the state’s arts vocational education training centers in Turkey, which is expected to be one of the best in the Middle East soon as the Chamber extensively cooperates with UNDP, ILO, GIZ, and FAO.

- **UNDP (Adile Şahin)**

Ms Şahin explained the details of the “**Employment and Skills Development Programme**” briefly. She claimed that the aim of the project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of ISKUR (Turkish Employment Agency) and to develop its IT services in order to absorb Syrian labour force to the local economies. Ms Sahin has stated that the project is funded by KfW and is implemented in Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, and Şanlıurfa. As part of the project, it is estimated that 7,000 additional impacted beneficiaries including the host communities and SuTP will benefit from counselling services.

- **WFP (Bahodur Umarov)**

No update is reported.

- **FAO (Ahmed Ekzayez)**

FAO does not have any update, but Mr Ekzayez stated that FAO cooperates with Ankara University for the next agriculture labour market assessment and asserted that this assessment will be useful for all involved in the livelihoods sector.

- **Concern Worldwide (Bekir Halhalli)**

Mr Halhalli has informed the participants that one of the NGOs in Şanlıurfa in 2008 conducted a labour market assessment, finding out that there exist 70% informal employment in the city. This number dropped to 32% in 2018. He has contended that

320 trainers are registered in last year's project into the İşkur's database. However, only 7 of them were placed into a job in customer call centers and textile sector.

Mr Halhalli has given an update on projects of Concern Worldwide to the participants. He has informed that Concern Worldwide will design a Turkish language courses project for 350 SuTP provided by Public Education Centers (Halk Eğitim Merkezleri), adding that 350 SuTP and 25 Turkish nationals will be given vocational training provided by service providers authorized by relevant Turkish agencies.

Other component of the project will be “**Lifelong Learning Skills and Entrepreneurship**”. Mr Halhalli emphasized that the greatest difficulty for these projects is business orientation as bringing trainees and employers is not easy at the end of the projects. To build social cohesion, the projects make sure that 50% of the beneficiaries are women.

- **Turkish Red Crescent (Bülent Öztürk)**

Mr Öztürk has stated that Turkish Red Crescent has more than 10 community centers in different provinces, one of which is in Gaziantep. These centers provide vocational and Turkish language trainings. Mr Öztürk expressed that vocational trainings should depend on the needs of the communities. Therefore, centers giving vocational trainings in different cities should be aware of the different needs of the communities. Mr Öztürk emphasized that the Turkish Red Crescent provides 120 TL monthly for each Syrians under temporary protection through the “**Emergency Social Safety Net**” (ESSN) project. 1.3 million SuTP utilize this scheme.

- **WFP (Azhar Al Azzawi)**

Ms Azzawi added that the ESSN project is ongoing and she reminded that “top up” fee is provided for especially people who are disabled and/or have chronic diseases. 10,000 people are identified to receive top ups under ESSN.

- **UNDP (Fatih Resul Kılınç)**

Mr Kılınç explained the purpose and the reason of **EU-UNDP Turkey Resilience Programme 2018-2020 (MADAD): Municipal Service Delivery Component**. He claimed that the project focuses on improving municipal capacities in waste management and firefighting services in Southeast Anatolian cities such as Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Hatay and Kilis. The project targets for each municipality are explained in detail.

5. Participants' Highlights

Mr Ekzayez asked the following question: “The livelihoods projects are great in terms of increasing the wellbeing of the host communities and SuTP. Yet, projects target approximately only 10% of SuTP. How are we going to reach our services to the remaining 90 %?” The following points were made during the discussion:

- Many of Syrian refugees prefer to go to Canada searching for ways instead of job placement.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Turkish language proficiency is still a problem for Syrian refugees for job opportunities.- Partners should collaborate to help Syrian Refugees about employment.- ISKUR has quota for SuTP for registration. (10 % approximately)
Action Points (action, responsible person and deadlines):	
AOBs and Announcements:	The annual report of Rizk Professional Development will be shared with the participants.

Minutes of Meeting prepared by: Fatih Resul Kılınç and Adile Şahin