Meeting Minutes of Economic Empowerment Sector Coordination Meeting

For the SET (Southeast Türkiye) Region

Meeting Date: 2023-07-25
Meeting Time: 11:00am-12:00pm
Meeting Location: MS Teams

For any questions or clarifications regarding the minutes, please don't hesitate to contact Semiha Bal (semiha.bal@undp.org), Regional Livelihood and Coordination Analyst at UNDP.

Attendees:

Name	Email
1. Semiha Bal	semiha.bal@undp.org
2. Nazli Avsaroglu	nazli.avsaroglu@undp.org
3. Feride YILDIRIM	feride.yildirim@wfp.org
4. YETISKIN Caglar	cyetiskin@iom.int
5. Seyma Buse Gorucu	gorucu@unhcr.org
6. Usame Çolakoğlu	usame.colakoglu@kizilay.org.tr
7. Liudmyla Yıldırım GTO	Gaziantep Chamber of Trade
8. Bayrak, Fatih (FAOTR)	Fatih.Bayrak@fao.org
9. Baba, Asuman GIZ TR	asuman.baba@giz.de
10. Rana Cavusoglu	rana.cavusoglu@undp.org
11. Naif Ciftci	ciftci@unhcr.org
12. Bekir HALHALLİ	b.halhalli@sened.ngo
13. Azize KAYA	azize.kaya@acted.org
14. Buğra Avcı	Habitat Association
15. Monica Ferrari	ferrarim@unhcr.org
16. Mustafa Yazar	SEECO Project
17. Ozlem Başel	Gaziantep Chamber of Trade
18. Abdullah Hakmi (Guest)	

Meeting Agenda:

- **3RP Updates**: Discussing the overall EES appeal and the recent 3RP launch.
- **EES Priority Areas**: A concise summary of the key focus areas.
- **SET Region Partners' Updates**: Any challenges, new programs, or recent initiatives.
- **Any Other Business (AOB):** Open discussion on relevant matters.

Meeting Notes:

Summary of 3RP updates from national level EES meeting:

- Appeal: $191 million requested by 23 EES partners.
- 2023+ 3RP Appeal Database (refugeeinfoturkey.org)
- Focus: Mainly Southeast Anatolia, but also Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Konya.
- Launch: Regional launch was conducted on March 6th.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will hold the 'Launch of the 2024 Regional Strategic Overview' for the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).
- The event will take place online, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 6 March 2024.
- The national launch is expected in the week of 22 April (After Ramadan and Bayram holidays) and it will be in person – tbc.

3RP EES Main areas for 2024 has been summarized:

1. Restoring Agri-food Systems:
Focus: Revitalize agricultural sectors in affected areas.
Activities:
Address needs and constraints faced by farmers and agricultural workers (including refugees).
Ensure sufficient labor availability.
Re-establish market connections for producers.
Guarantee food security for vulnerable communities.
Provide livelihood opportunities through agriculture.
2. Promoting Skills and Knowledge for Food Security:
Goal: Enhance income and access to food for individuals.
Solution: Equip individuals with relevant skills through:
Training programs aligned with job market demands.
3. Supporting Gender-Sensitive Employability and Entrepreneurship:
Objective: Promote self-reliance for vulnerable individuals.
Strategies:

- Offer skills development training (including language courses) tailored to various job market needs.
- Strengthen job counseling, placement services, and entrepreneurship support.
- Collaborate with national institutions (e.g., TÜRKONFED) and local actors to:
- Support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including Syrian-owned businesses.
- Foster employment opportunities through cooperatives.

Update on 3RP Response Reporting Mechanism

Partners were informed on the **new reporting mechanism for the 3RP response**:

- **Merged Reporting System:** UNHCR has implemented a single reporting portal for both 3RP and EQ EES partners.
- **For Reporting Inquiries**: General Reporting: eksi@unhcr.org

- **Sector-Specific Reporting:**
- **Livelihoods:** berkin.erol@undp.org (https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/livelihoods)
- **Agriculture:** Fatih.bayrak@fao.org

Updates from Sector Partners

ACTED

- **3Zero Village Works:** An area was built in the Güzelburç neighborhood, opposite the Koç container city. As part of the 3.0 Home Global Initiative, this project is an attempt to adapt to earthquake zone conditions in Hatay, with both social rehabilitation and economic development components.
- They are creating **19 wooden houses**. 15 of these will be allocated to earthquake-affected cooperatives, small businesses and civil society organizations in Hatay.
- The area is also planned to be transformed into:
- An open-air **event space of 65 square meters for 130 people.** They plan to organize capacity building trainings for partners and various events/workshops with civil society organizations here. This will help address the need for space and cooperation centers in Hatay.
- A restaurant area (under construction, opening planned for April. Exact info to be shared later).

GIZ

- Reshaping Economic Opportunities Project: GIZ is revamping the Promoting Economic Opportunities; funding from the European Union. Currently, there's only one active initiative: collaborating with Local Development Organizations (LDOs) to provide:
- Legal advice: Assistance with work permits and procedures
- Employer-employee mediation and advocacy services.

Focus on Earthquake Recovery

- GIZ is dedicating efforts to support economic recovery in the earthquake-affected provinces of Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Kilis, Adana, and Hatay. This EU-funded initiative involves pilot projects, details of which are not yet available.

New Project on the Horizon

- A significant 4-year project is set to launch in September 2024. This initiative will address both the demand and supply sides of the workforce:
- Demand Side: Building capacity and supporting the registration of businesses.
- Supply Side: Vocational training programs; Turkish language classes; Initiatives to enhance individual employability; Registration of informal workers; Job creation and employment support services.
- The project will partner with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and operate in 11-13 provinces, with a specific focus on livelihoods in the 6 earthquake-affected regions. Currently, the project is under development.

SENED

Completed Projects:

- GIZ funded license project 2.020 ended on September 3, 2020.
- The project funded by Good Neighbors Japan providing one-time cash support to 1768 families in Hatay and Maraş ended in early 2024.

Ongoing Projects:

- Multi-purpose cash support project in cooperation with GIZ and CLIP 2:

- Target group: 80% Syrians under temporary protection, 20% Turkish citizens
- Number of beneficiaries reached: 11.000
- Scope: 5 provinces (Hatay, Adana, Antep, Adıyaman, Van)
- Project duration: Until September 2024
- One-time aid amount: 8.265 TL
- Winter relief project supported by Good Neighbors Japan:
- Location: Hatay, Kirikhan
- Type of assistance: 750 winter kits and 250 NFI (non-food items)
- Distribution period: By the end of April

HABITAT

- **Joint Project with UNICEF**: **Equalize the Future**: Youth skills development programs; Digital Masters Academy (120 hours); For refugee communities; Links to the private sector and internship/job opportunities; Coding Tomorrow: Container classrooms in Hatay, Adıyaman, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya; Coding trainings
- In Malatya with Bridge to Turkey Fund support: Social skills and digital skills programs; Financial and digital tool usage trainings.
- With the support of Foundation de France in Hatay: Psychosocial support; Social and financial skills development programs.

GAZIANTEP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- **Empowering Women and Entrepreneurs:** Project for Women's Cooperatives, Entrepreneurs & Unemployed Women (Ongoing in 2024): Capacity building through group consultations, individual mentorship, and group trainings.
- Focus on supporting 20-30 women entrepreneurs and unemployed women.
- In Gaziantep – a small store established for project participants to sell their products.
- **Completed Project (Supported by International Center for Migration Policy Development):** Aimed at integrating Syrian refugees into Turkey's formal economy. Supported formal employment and entrepreneurship in Gaziantep. Delivered 50 trainings for startups and scale-up groups.
- **Gaziantep Gastronomy Academy:** Established to support entrepreneurs and stakeholders in the food industry. Currently houses projects like the UNHCR project, providing resources for entrepreneurs.
- Fosters collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce and various beneficial groups.
- **Boosting Foreign Trade**: Completed International GIZ Project: Increased local businesses' foreign trade capacity. Trained and employed 14 professional foreign trade consultants. Consultants offer ongoing consultations to entrepreneurs on export opportunities. Future Plans (2024 and beyond):
- **Supporting Formal Business and Employment:** Providing professional and vocational training programs.
- **Green Transformation and Digitalization:** Integrating these crucial aspects into future projects.
- **Focus on Gender Equality**: Maintaining a strong focus on women's empowerment, with 60-70% of project beneficiaries being women.

TRC

- **SDEP-2 Project Summary:** Supporting Labor Market Transition in Turkey

- Funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Turkish Ministry of Labor, Social Services and Family (MoLSS), Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), and Turkish Red Crescent, ISDEP-2 aims to help people in Turkey find jobs.
- **Target Beneficiaries:**
- Turkish citizens and local residents looking for work in specific provinces (Adana, Bursa, Gaziantep, Istanbul, Izmir, Kocaeli, Konya, Şanlıurfa)
- Migrants with temporary or international protection status
- **Project Goal:** Increase employability and support those nearing labor market readiness to exit the Social Cohesion Assistance (ESSN) program.
- **Services Offered:** Job training; Job placement; Entrepreneurship support; Implementation:
- Until December 2025 by İŞKUR and Red Crescent with World Bank technical assistance.
- Current Status: Referrals to İŞKUR have begun; Referrals target individuals aged 18-59; To participate, beneficiaries must give up their Red Crescent Card.
- Support Needed: Red Crescent seeks help from institutions for employer referrals.
- https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/QFb4Cj5s

IOM

- **Entrepreneurship Support:**
  - 160 entrepreneurs have received funding to grow and develop their businesses.
  - In the near future, 5 more cooperatives will be supported with a new call.
  - In total, 10 cooperatives will receive $20,000 in funding.
  - Through entrepreneurship courses, 90 people were trained in various fields.
  - A call for entrepreneurship support fund of $20,000 will be launched in the near future.
- **Other Activities:**
  - Cows were distributed to 30 families in Şanlıurfa.
  - In Gaziantep, 410 sheep will be distributed in the coming periods.
  - Vocational training courses provide training in agriculture, textiles and entrepreneurship.

UNHCR

- UNHCR Refugee Support Summary (Last Quarter 2023):
  - **Cooperatives:** Supported 12 cooperatives in 2023 through Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce and Support to Life Association. New call for applications for cooperative support is coming soon, in partnership with Support to Life Association.
  - **Skills Training:** Conducted training programs with İşkur in 8 cities (monitoring and evaluation ongoing).
  - **Cash for Work:** Implemented Cash for Work activities with the Danish Refugee Council in Hatay, Şanlıurfa, and Kahramanmaraş. 1,008 beneficiaries received support (employment in agriculture and municipalities).

WFP

- **SES Project:** Vocational and on-the-job training programs. It is implemented in Southeastern Anatolia together with İşkur.
- In Gaziantep, 170 people will receive courses in areas such as welding, machine maintenance, textiles and foreign trade. Cooperation with Gaziantep Chamber of Industry.
- **Dissemination of the SES Project in the Earthquake Region:**
  - A new agreement was signed with UGDD.
  - Training will be provided to 380 people in Malatya, Adıyaman and Kahramanmaraş.

- After the training, job placement and 3-month payments will be provided.
- The payments will be transferred to the workplaces by UGDD.
- **Şanlıurfa:**
- Cooperation with Şanlıurfa Chamber of Industry and Commerce continues.
- Approximately 150 more people will be trained.
- **Target:**
- To train a total of 600 people in Southeastern Anatolia.

- The meeting concluded with a discussion of the way forward and the need to continue working together to support economic empowerment in the Southeast Anatolia Region. The stakeholders will continue to share information and insights on the challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

- The next meeting date & time will be shared among the SET Region mail group accordingly.