



TURKEY PROGRAMME

CASE STUDY FOR SHELTER PROGRAMMING

In 2012, Fatima with her husband and children fled from the east of Aleppo after the starting of the Syrian conflict. “Because of the strikes and shelling I was afraid for my children,” Fatima said. She and her family went to her parents’ town Tel-Refat, where they stayed until the conflict spread to there in 2016. Her oldest son Ahmed got his head injured from a bullet, and again, they fled out of Tel-Refat towards the Turkish border and stayed in a camp. Later on, Fatima decided to cross the border and go to Turkey, “I was not able to stay more in the camp, and actually, the main reason which forced me to leave Syria was Ahmed: his skull was broken [...] In Turkey, they put a metal plate in his head as a treatment.” Now, Ahmed is not able to walk and speak because of the head injury; but, “he understands everything around him,” Fatima said in tears.



Fatima and her family have been settling in Kilis in Southeastern Turkey since 2016. The family suffered a lot from the house where they reside in Kilis. There was an open space inside the house which usually got wet by rain during the winter, and got direct sunlight during the broiling heat of summer. “My son once fell down to the ground because of the rain [stagnant water on the ground] and his hands were broken,” Fatima said, and added because of the metal plate in his head “he cannot stand under sunshine, he immediately falls down.” Also, there was a height difference between the level of the entrance and the house floor. Fatima was suffering during the movement of her son’s wheelchair through the external door. They had to carry him each time they want to enter him to the house. Before getting CARE’s shelter rehabilitation, she tried to find another house but she could not because of the high rents in Kilis province where %81 of the population are Syrian.

In May 2019, CARE's Basic Needs / Shelter Team went to Fatima's neighborhood, and visited all houses in the neighborhood including Fatima's house. They checked the entire house, and Fatima explained the team her son's situation in addition to their needs. "They gave me a PTT [Turkish Post Office] card to get the money, the total amount of the two payments was 3035 TL," she said. As this was a Cash for Shelter project, after getting first payment, Fatima cooperated with her neighbors, who were also CARE's beneficiaries, to get workers and material for rehabilitation process. "My neighbor wanted also to install some metal parapet for the windows so we brought a smith. This smith installed the profiled roofing [for the open space within the house]. He also cut the external door, and raised it around 30 cm to build a ramp. My husband works in constructions, he knows a carpenter who installed a wooden door and the glazing for windows."

"We were suffering to enter my son's wheelchair to the home. After fixing the external door and building a ramp, now we easily push the wheelchair, no need to carry Ahmed and the wheelchair anymore [...] So, CARE's support changed the situation for all of us, we felt more comfortable in the house now. Even the visitors noticed the change."

The rehabilitation process took one week after which CARE's Shelter Team went to check the installed items. Then, Fatima got the second payment from CARE. "I was very happy with the profiled roof as it prevented the sunshine and made the house cooler. We did not use this space before. After CARE's support, we started to sit in this space, we were very happy with the profiled roof," Fatima said. She added "we were suffering to enter my son's wheelchair to the home. After fixing the external door and building a ramp,

now we easily push the wheelchair, no need to carry Ahmed and the wheelchair anymore [...] So, CARE's support changed the situation for all of us, we felt more comfortable in the house now. Even the visitors noticed the change," Fatima said with a smile. Fatima also showed her satisfaction about Cash for Shelter project, "It is better and cheaper than the other methods, where we can choose the items. Also, in this way we know the workers, it is better to know who is entering the house. We can ask them to repair and install items in the way we want."

CARE implements Cash for Shelter project in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, and Kilis where majority of Syrian refugees reside. The project's neighborhood approach aims for checking all the houses within a designated area to not to create tension among neighbors and enhance their collaboration while rehabilitating their houses. Every shelter rehabilitation CARE implements have some social impact. It can be making the house safer for kids, meeting special privacy needs of women especially when more than one family reside in the house. The impact is even more striking when there is a person with special needs as we see in Ahmed's case. This rehabilitation not only makes Ahmed's life safer, it also eases his main caregiver Fatima's workload.

CARE Turkey

Sherine Ibrahim, Country Director

Sherine.ibrahim@care.org

